



## Community-Driven Development in Waste Management: Lessons from Palasari, Bandung

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**Abstract:** Population growth has increased waste production, overwhelming sanitation workers and necessitating active community participation to address environmental challenges. Community involvement is often viewed through the lens of external interventions led by governments or NGOs. In contrast, the Palasari community in Bandung independently established the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank, managed without external involvement. This study aims to demonstrate that independent, bottom-up community-driven development (CDD) effectively addresses environmental issues while meeting community needs. Using a qualitative approach, the study identifies evidence of the success of the CDD model in the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank. Findings reveal that this model emphasizes community autonomy in managing resources to tackle environmental challenges with economic benefits. Creative, voluntary initiatives by community members foster a participatory and inclusive management model. This approach enhances residents' sense of ownership through direct involvement based on their potential and capabilities. Transparent and communicative management ensures that information is accessible to all, strengthening collective awareness. These findings confirm that the bottom-up CDD model, as exemplified by the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank, is an effective approach to community development.

**Keywords:** *Community-driven development, Bottom-up approach, Waste bank*

**Abstrak:** Pertumbuhan penduduk telah berdampak pada peningkatan produksi sampah yang membebani petugas kebersihan, dan mengharuskan partisipasi aktif masyarakat untuk mengatasi tantangan lingkungan. Keterlibatan masyarakat sering kali ditinjau dari perspektif intervensi eksternal yang diinisiasi oleh pemerintah atau lembaga swadaya masyarakat (LSM). Berbeda dengan itu, komunitas Palasari di Bandung secara mandiri mendirikan Bank Sampah Wargi Manglayang, yang dikelola tanpa keterlibatan pihak eksternal. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk membuktikan bahwa Community-Driven Development (CDD) yang bersifat independen dan bottom-up (arus bawah) merupakan metode yang efektif dalam mengatasi permasalahan lingkungan sekaligus memenuhi kebutuhan masyarakat. Melalui pendekatan kualitatif, penelitian ini mengidentifikasi bukti keberhasilan model CDD di Bank Sampah Wargi Manglayang. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa model ini menekankan kemandirian masyarakat dalam mengelola sumber daya untuk menanggulangi tantangan lingkungan yang disertai dengan manfaat ekonomi. Inisiatif kreatif dan sukarela dari anggota masyarakat mendorong terciptanya model tata kelola yang partisipatif dan inklusif. Pendekatan ini meningkatkan rasa kepemilikan warga melalui keterlibatan langsung yang disesuaikan dengan potensi dan kapabilitas mereka. Tata kelola yang transparan dan



komunikatif menjamin aksesibilitas informasi bagi semua pihak, yang pada akhirnya memperkuat kesadaran kolektif. Temuan ini menegaskan bahwa model CDD bottom-up, sebagaimana diterapkan di Bank Sampah Wargi Manglayang, merupakan pendekatan yang efektif dalam pengembangan masyarakat.

**Kata Kunci:** *Pembangunan berbasis masyarakat, pendekatan bottom up, Bank sampah*

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## INTRODUCTION

Participation in community intervention activities, defined as a process of mobilizing resources by external parties to provide support for improving living standards (Chowdhoree, 2020; Clements, 2009), differs in the efforts of the Palasari community in Bandung in addressing environmental challenges related to waste. The community opted for independent interventions, emphasizing the active participation of all members in Waste Bank activities. This approach contrasts with top-down intervention mechanisms often used to address the limited resources available to governments for managing social and environmental issues (Steuer, 2021). By initiating movements aligned with local needs, the Waste Bank serves as an effective model for independent group interventions, enhancing socio-economic well-being through community-driven waste management.

The independent model for improving welfare is particularly significant in regional communities with limited resources to support top-down interventions. This is evident in the waste management challenges in Bandung, where daily waste production reaches 1,500 tons, exceeding the handling capacity of 1,200–1,400 tons per day (Faizah, 2008). These capacity constraints prompted a policy shift, transferring waste management responsibilities from the Bandung Regional Cleaning Company to the Environment and Sanitation Agency through Peraturan Pemerintah No. 18 Tahun 2016 and Peraturan Daerah Kota Bandung No. 8 Tahun 2016. Overwhelmed by this excess capacity, the region required a community participation model through group-led initiatives to address waste management. However, community involvement is often limited by minimal technical capacity, necessitating a combination of top-down and bottom-up intervention strategies to enhance effectiveness.

Evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of community participation in addressing environmental issues and converting them into economic benefits that enhance well-being has often been overlooked by researchers. Many studies have focused primarily on the economic aspects of waste management through Waste Banks, neglecting the role of community independence in fostering autonomous development without external intervention. For

example, Megaiswari (2016) examines Waste Bank practices solely in terms of economic benefits and strategies for addressing environmental challenges. Similarly, Oktaviani (2015) views Waste Banks as a form of social entrepreneurship aimed at improving financial outcomes. Fachrurozi (2018) focuses on Waste Banks as agents of community empowerment but overlooks the mechanism of independence-based community intervention. Consequently, prior research has largely ignored the aspect of independent community development as a bottom-up intervention model, as exemplified by the Palasari community's efforts in establishing the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank.

This study aims to demonstrate the sustainability of community welfare development through independent efforts in social development by the Palasari community in Bandung via the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank. To achieve this objective, the study presents three key pieces of evidence illustrating the Palasari community's success in enhancing welfare through the Waste Bank. First, the formation of stable community networks through independent programs shows that community-driven development can thrive based on self-identified needs and full control over implementation. Second, participatory involvement fosters a sense of togetherness, strengthening community cohesion. Third, the Waste Bank's management model ensures program sustainability. These three pieces of evidence collectively support the effectiveness of community-driven development in promoting sustainable welfare.

This study argues that community initiatives to enhance well-being can be effectively implemented through a bottom-up paradigm, emphasizing active community participation in managing local resources. This argument is grounded in the belief that well-being is achieved by increasing the capacity of individuals and communities to manage their lives independently (Sen, 2001). A bottom-up approach enables communities to identify local needs and implement solutions, as demonstrated by community-based initiatives that integrate local knowledge for socio-economic resilience, fostering sustainable empowerment (Mansuri & Rao, 2013; Midgley, 2014). Active participation also enhances sustainability by addressing unequal access in external intervention processes (Chambers, 2013). This approach is more effective than top-down models because it promotes local innovation and inclusivity while prioritizing social justice (Burke & Harrison, 2004). Community initiatives, through empowerment, local innovation, and systemic interconnections, have the potential to generate sustainable well-being.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Community-Driven Development: A Bottom-Up Approach to Improving Welfare**

Community-Driven Development (CDD) is a development approach intrinsically aligned with bottom-up policies, as it positions communities as the primary drivers in the planning, implementation, and management of development projects. In CDD, communities act not only as beneficiaries but also as decision-makers, identifying local needs, formulating solutions, and directly managing resources. This approach embodies the bottom-up principle, where development initiatives originate from community aspirations and priorities rather than being imposed by central authorities. According to Mansuri and Rao (2013), CDD strengthens bottom-up policies by enhancing community participation, promoting social accountability, and ensuring that development projects are relevant to the local context. Poncin (2024) notes that the CDD approach involves directly providing resources—such as training, facilitation, and information—to communities (e.g., residents of villages or hamlets selected for intervention), enabling them to develop their own project proposals in a participatory manner.

The connection between Community-Driven Development (CDD) and bottom-up policies is evident in its characteristics, which emphasize empowerment, transparency, and collaboration. This approach involves communities at every stage—from decision-making to evaluation—reflecting the essence of bottom-up policies that prioritize grassroots participation (Krishna et al., 2025). Furthermore, CDD often includes training to enhance community capacity in project management and fosters partnerships with local governments or non-governmental organizations to support implementation. However, as noted by Dongier et al. (2003), the success of CDD within a bottom-up framework depends on strong coordination between communities and external stakeholders to address challenges such as resource constraints or potential conflicts of interest. A study by Casey et al. (2012) also demonstrates that CDD, when implemented with a bottom-up approach, can enhance social cohesion and project sustainability, particularly in communities with high levels of trust and cooperation.

### **Community Participation in Environmental Management: An Overview of Waste Banks**

Community participation involves engaging the community in identifying local problems and potential, determining solutions, and implementing and evaluating changes (Adi, 2007; Choresyo et al., 2017). This model can be applied to waste management programs

independent of government institutions (Cohen & Uphoff, 1980; Fahrudin, 2010; Tjokroamidjojo, 1988). Popple (2015) and Suryani (2014) highlight that community involvement in waste management enhances economic value and environmental awareness. Technically, waste bank activities include sorting, depositing, and converting waste into savings or cash (Oakley, 1991; Shomedran, 2016; Sulistiyorini et al., 2015). Wilson and Wilde (2003) identify four dimensions of participation—*influence, inclusion, communication, and capacity*—which encompass equal recognition, representation, participation opportunities, diversity, equitable policies, respect for volunteers, two-way communication, access to information, and the development of knowledge and skills.

The dimensions of community participation—*influence, inclusion, communication, and capacity*—are evident in community recognition, decision-making involvement, participation opportunities, resource access, and membership regeneration. Communities are treated as equal partners at all stages of activity (Sitanggang et al., 2017; Uphoff et al., 1979; Wilson & Wilde, 2003). This involvement manifests in decision-making processes (Uphoff et al., 1979; Wilson & Wilde, 2003), open participation opportunities (Uphoff et al., 1979; Kuruvilla & Sathyamurthy, 2015), and access to administrative and technical resources that enable active contributions (Kuruvilla & Karibeeran, 2015). Inclusivity, another key dimension, is reflected in waste management through diversity (Wilson & Wilde, 2003), equitable opportunities (Ocktilia, 2020), and appreciation for volunteers (Ocktilia, 2020).

## METHODS

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach. Data collection in this study was conducted through interviews and document research. In addition, the types of data used in this study are primary data and secondary data. Primary data sources are data obtained directly from communities involved in the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank, while secondary data sources are obtained indirectly from researchers (Creswell, 2014). The interview was conducted in Palasari District, Bandung and was conducted in November 2023. The informants are all members of Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank, including the chairman and those involved in the organizational structure. This is done because researcher considers them to be the parties who can provide information to support the research needs.

In addition to using primary and secondary data, this article also uses scientific publications as a source of literature derived from articles, books, theses, and dissertations that have discussions about community participation in waste banks. The literature is used as



a guideline for researchers in conducting assessments on community participation aimed at achieving waste bank goals and preserving the environment (Creswell, 2014). Finally, after the necessary data is collected through the data collection process, data analysis is carried out by analyzing the collected data in the form of interviews on the problem being studied. The stages of data analysis carried out in this study are data reduction which is the stage of sorting data according to research objectives, presenting data which is a narrative of data that has been sorted, and drawing conclusions which are the final results of research data that have been discussed based on literature review (Creswell, 2014).

## RESULTS

### An Overview of Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank

Conditions that occur in the community even though there have been efforts to deal with waste problems regulated by the government as described in the previous paragraph, in fact there are still some community groups who feel dissatisfied with the cleanliness of their environment. This dissatisfaction made some community groups unite to make a joint effort. One of them is done by some people in Palasari District, Bandung, they established a Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank in 2009 located in Palasari District, Bandung. Some of these communities create waste banks in which there are various forms of activities that support the improvement of environmental conditions, especially from waste problems. In its development, there are also various forms of activities that become points of interest for more other communities, to participate as well.

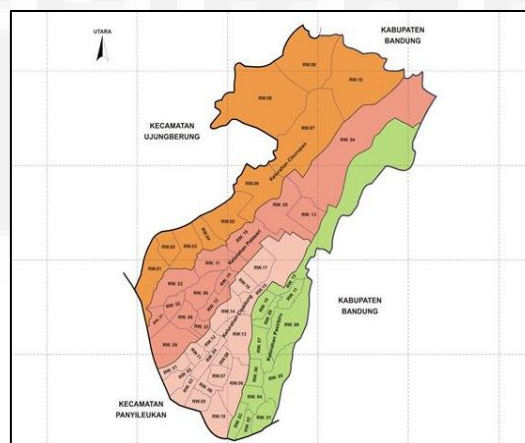


Figure 1. Palasari District Map

Source: Profile of Palasari District, 2021

Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank, founded in 2009, was initially led by Mrs. Chelyna, who served as the first chairman until 2012. In 2012, Mrs. Mimin took over the role, having previously been Mrs. Chelyna's representative, and has served as the chairman since then. Members of the Waste Bank hold dual roles as both administrators and customers. Administrators manage various activities like handling administration and warehouse storage, while customers deposit waste, which is converted into money. By 2021, the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank had about 250 members, with varying levels of activity, some saving weekly, others biweekly or monthly. Membership is open beyond the Palasari District, including areas from other districts and even cities.

In addition to the encouragement of some people's dissatisfaction with their environmental conditions, another factor impeding the formation of Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank is the regulation of environmental hygiene competitions which one of the requirements is the obligation to have a waste bank. Historically, in 2009 there was a Bandung Green and Clean competition, where at that time, the Mayor of Bandung was still held by Mr. Dada Rosada. At that time, the Bandung Green and Clean competition collaborated with many parties, including Unilever, Pikiran Rakyat, Bandung Hotel, Rase FM, and LPTT (a kind of appropriate institution chaired by Mr. Rohaji). These various parties joined forces to hold a green and clean competition which in general, is a cleanliness and waste management competition. In the competition, there were many district in Bandung (around hundreds of district). At that time, Palasari District became one of the participants from many other who participated in the Bandung Green and Clean competition.



Figure 2. Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank Logo

Source: Profile of Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank, 2018

One of the founders of Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank was Mrs. Mimin's husband, an environmentalist and agriculture lecturer at Padjadjaran University. They first learned about waste banks through various media, especially the internet. That year, Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank was not the only one; other districts also established waste banks. In the 2009 competition, Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank placed second, and the following year, it won first place and became the overall champion at the Bandung level, competing against around 500 districts. Since then, Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank has continued to operate according to its intended workflow, even without the Bandung Green and Clean competition, as they recognize the significant environmental benefits it provides. This is in accordance with the opinion of Suryani (2014) which reveals the purpose of establishing a waste bank is to make people aware of a healthy, neat, and clean environment. Based on the history, it is known that community participation is important for Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank. Considering that from the beginning of its formation until it can survive until now, Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank depends on the participation provided by the community who are members of Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank itself. Community participation in Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank activities is not only useful in supporting environmental cleanliness, but can also have a more positive impact in the form of economic benefits.

#### **Community Sovereignty in Program Development: Establishing a Socio-Economic Network in the Palasari Community, Bandung**

Improving community welfare by addressing social problems and maximizing local potential requires autonomous sovereignty to fully control all processes necessary for enhancing living conditions. In the context of the Wargi Manglayang community, improving welfare also involves managing environmental challenges through initiatives like a Waste Bank. Awareness of waste-related issues prompted residents to establish collective management, demonstrated by their voluntary participation without financial incentives. The head of the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank stated:

We, who work and volunteer at the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank without receiving a salary, feel happy and respect each other as members. This is because we understand that the Waste Bank operates voluntarily to promote environmental cleanliness and provide greater benefits to the community.



This voluntary approach to waste management stems from a collective awareness of environmental challenges that threaten community well-being, ensuring that all activities are carried out based on mutual agreement.



Figure 1. Products from Waste Processing at the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank

Source: documentation, 2024

The waste management agreement, rooted in a shared commitment to addressing environmental issues, shapes a control mechanism fully implemented by community members through collective decisions. Equality forms the cornerstone of this control process, enhancing the community's economic value. Observational data reveals that awareness of the economic value of sorted waste (Rp. 7,000) and unsorted waste (Rp. 5,000) has increased income from the Waste Bank. This revenue serves as management capital to cover operational needs, such as purchasing sacks, duct tape, or office equipment. Full community control over development processes is also evident in programs designed to enhance members' understanding, knowledge, and skills through internal training.

Enhanced waste management skills have increased support and partnerships from various institutions, elevating the prominence of the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank. This recognition has attracted interest from institutions seeking to engage the Waste Bank as trainers, speakers, and role models at various exhibitions. Documents confirm members' participation as resource persons at seminars organized by companies and agencies in locations such as Sukabumi, Yogyakarta, and Garut. Companies like Chevron Sukabumi and PTPN VIII have highlighted the Waste Bank's successful initiatives in waste recycling, composting, and leachate treatment as models for their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs. One informant shared:

When we started, we frequently participated in environmental competitions. After winning multiple times and being ineligible for similar contests, we shifted to speaking and providing training at seminars, serving as a model for other regions.

Beyond training and seminars, the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank actively participates in exhibitions to showcase its waste-processed creations and market its crafts. Notable events include the Eco-Creative Exhibition at Bandung City Hall, the Go Green Exhibition at Istana Plaza, the Plastic Reduction Movement Launch at Pasteur Hyper Point Bandung, the Trash Painting Exhibition at Istana Plaza's Back to Nature event, the Trash Painting Exhibition at the French Cultural Center in Bandung, the National Poverty Alleviation Program Exhibition at Bandung City Hall, the Waste Recycling Exhibition to break the MURI record, and the Panyileukan District Anniversary exhibition.

### **Participatory Ownership as a Strength in Community-Driven Development: Fostering Togetherness for Prosperity**

The cornerstone of independent community resource management lies in participatory ownership of programs designed to enhance well-being. Data highlights this participatory ownership through comprehensive community contributions, leveraging members' skills and expertise in waste management processes. Community members apply their expertise in processing, crafting, and equipment operation to maximize program impact. Those with specialized skills in areas such as administration, technology, agriculture, or environmental management provide mentoring to support other members. An informant explained:

The skills of community members involved in the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank are diverse, encompassing crafts, technology operation, and specialized knowledge in administration, agriculture, and environmental management, all of which support the Waste Bank's activities."

This expertise-driven model maximizes each member's potential, reinforcing participatory goals through savings account ownership.

All members serve as both administrators and customers, each holding a savings account akin to a traditional bank.

Members fulfil dual roles: as managers participating in administrative tasks, warehouse management, and craft production; and as customers saving waste for conversion into cash. Additionally, members enjoy equal access to facilities, including administrative tools like

office supplies and laptops, as well as waste processing equipment such as sorting machines, crafting tools, composting systems, and leachate production equipment.

The inclusiveness of the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank's membership underscores its participatory management, as evidenced by the diversity in age, gender, expertise, and social background. Members include both men and women, with men often serving on the expert team operating equipment like composting machines. Ages range from young adults to seniors, with men of varying ages handling tasks such as cart pulling. Members possess diverse skills, including roles as managers, treasurers, and technical experts, and come from varied backgrounds, such as religious leaders, neighbourhood association (RT/RW) officials, university staff, private sector employees, entrepreneurs, and job seekers. An informant shared:

Our membership is diverse in gender, with men and women contributing, particularly men on the expert team operating equipment like composting machines. Ages vary widely, from members in their 30s to those in their 60s, including younger and older individuals who help pull carts. Our backgrounds include community leaders, government employees, entrepreneurs, lecturers, private sector workers, and the unemployed. Our core team consists of nine members, assigned roles such as manager (head of administration), treasurer, secretary, sorting and weighing division, processing division, and expert team.

The age diversity among members raises concerns about slow regeneration, as younger generations are often engaged in other activities, such as family empowerment programs and integrated health posts (*Posyandu*). This challenge stems not from exclusive participation but from competing commitments among younger members.

A key indicator of member involvement in the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank is community representation in decision-making. Decisions are made through meetings typically attended by the nine core members, with reports shared with other members. These meetings, held as needed, occasionally include other waste bank communities in Bandung and often involve environmental activists, particularly those supported by Unilever. Internal meetings, conducted by the core team (operational and expert members), sometimes include local community leaders to discuss grievances and future plans. While support from community leaders varies based on their priorities, the Waste Bank maintains its independence while fostering positive relationships with these stakeholders.

## Community Self-Governance in Waste Bank Program: A Management Model for Program Stability and Sustainability

The stability and sustainability of community development through independent interventions depend on trust-based management, openness among groups, and modern management practices. The Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank employs a digital bookkeeping system, using a ledger model to record membership history and savings, with online backups for security. This system emerged from the Waste Bank's participation in the 2009 Bandung Green and Clean competition, which facilitated collaboration with Unilever on archive digitization. Unilever supported professional management by providing laptops, uniforms, and nameplates. Additionally, Unilever offered opportunities for Waste Bank members to engage in various environmental-themed activities.

Open communication underscores the independent management of the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank, fostering trust with the community and its partners. The Waste Bank employs a two-way communication strategy, combining direct and mediated channels. Direct information about activities and procedures is available at the Waste Bank office in Palasari District. To accommodate its large membership and twice-weekly operations, management provides updates through WhatsApp groups, including a general group and specialized groups for activities like crafts and leachate management. These groups facilitate notifications, coordination, and Q&A sessions. The management head also participates in WhatsApp groups with formal partners, such as the Environment and Sanitation Agency, and informal ones, like the West Java Waste Bank Community, and occasionally uses Zoom for coordination.

Informants note that communication with groups like the West Java Waste Bank Community, Bandung Waste Bank Forum, Waste-Free Area Community, and West Java Joint Forum primarily occurs via WhatsApp, enabling rapid information sharing. The chairperson joins both formal groups, such as those with the Environmental Agency, and informal ones, like joint forums. Coordination with the Environmental Agency and other waste banks increasingly involves Zoom meetings, including online seminars and Q&A sessions, such as a recent meeting discussing the sale of processed waste products. In-person meetings and seminars, attended by Waste Bank representatives, have also resumed. An informant shared:

We communicate through WhatsApp groups, both general and specialized, such as those for crafts. As the administrative head, I join groups like the West Java Waste Bank

Community, Bandung City Waste Bank Forum, Waste-Free Area Community, and West Java Joint Forum to quickly share important updates. Leaders also participate in formal groups with environmental agencies and informal ones like joint forums. Coordination with these agencies and waste bank networks now often occurs via Zoom, including online seminars with Q&A sessions. Last month, we discussed the sale of waste bank products via Zoom. Before the pandemic, meetings and seminars were typically held in person, attended by our representatives.

The use of digital media to share information about activities and management processes reflects the Palasari community's self-reliant model for developing the Waste Bank, enhancing community welfare through community-driven development.

## DISCUSSION

The Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank program in Palasari, Bandung, exemplifies community self-reliance in enhancing well-being by addressing environmental challenges and leveraging local potential through waste management rooted in collective awareness, active participation, and shared ownership. The entire process—from collection and processing to marketing recycled materials—is carried out voluntarily by members through a participatory decision-making system that prioritizes equality. Revenue from the sale of sorted waste serves as operational capital, while internal training enhances members' skills, enabling them to act as resource persons, trainers, and role models for other regions. The diversity of members' ages, genders, backgrounds, and expertise strengthens participatory management, though regeneration remains a challenge. Transparent, technology-based management, including digital record-keeping and communication via WhatsApp and Zoom, fosters robust collaborative networks with stakeholders such as government agencies, companies, and other waste bank communities. Through a combination of self-reliance, transparency, and partner support, the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank has established a sustainable, socio-economically effective model for community-driven development.

The Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank initiative in Palasari, Bandung, reflects the community's collective awareness in leveraging resources to achieve self-sufficiency and enhance well-being through waste management. This model aligns with Chambers' (2013) concept of a bottom-up welfare improvement approach, emphasizing participatory local initiatives driven by community needs and potential. Well-being is fostered through the



community's voluntary participation in collecting, processing, and marketing recycled products, guided by egalitarian decision-making processes. Revenue from sorted waste sales serves as operational capital, while internal training enhances members' skills, enabling them to serve as resource persons and trainers. This participatory approach, characterized by influence, inclusivity, communication, and capacity-building, serves as an indicator of effective waste management (Wilson & Wilde, 2003). Similarly, Sen (2001) argues that prioritizing individual capabilities and freedom to address self-identified needs is an effective strategy for improving community welfare. Consequently, the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank exemplifies a bottom-up community development model that effectively harnesses local potential and needs.

The tendency to evaluate community-driven development through a top-down approach can be shifted by promoting community independence in waste management without reliance on external intervention. Wong and Guggenheim (2018) argue that a top-down approach to implementing community-driven development can be effective for governments addressing socio-economic challenges. However, Mansuri and Rao (2013) critique this approach for failing to prioritize community independence in identifying and resolving issues. In contrast, the bottom-up model exemplified by the Palasari community in Bandung, through addressing environmental challenges with economic value, demonstrates that community-driven development is more effective when driven by community-led initiatives. This is evident in the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank's voluntary management, rooted in collective awareness, egalitarian decision-making, and the use of revenue for operational needs. The independence shown by this community illustrates an effective model of bottom-up community-driven development, offering greater flexibility and alignment with local welfare goals.

The Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank exemplifies a community welfare development model rooted in independent intervention, minimizing reliance on external support. This aspect of community-driven development has been largely overlooked by studies examining welfare improvement through internal, participatory, and creative efforts. Notably, Megaiswari (2016), Oktaviani (2015), and Fachrurozi (2018) fail to address the creative potential of the Palasari community's active involvement in the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank, which tackles internal challenges while contributing to broader governmental solutions. The effectiveness of this independent intervention mechanism highlights the value

of community-led initiatives, empowering communities to leverage their potential and resources to address needs autonomously.

### CONCLUSION

The assumption that community development requires external intervention from entities such as governments or NGOs cannot be universally applied in policy. Instead, this study examines how communities can independently leverage resources to address social challenges based on their needs. The Palasari community in Bandung exemplifies this through its Waste Bank program, which transforms environmental challenges into opportunities via a bottom-up approach. This model affords communities the freedom and flexibility to harness their potential, thereby enhancing well-being. The community's autonomy in designing programs tailored to its needs demonstrates this independence. Such freedom fosters balanced and inclusive participation in management processes. Professional management, characterized by a division of labor based on equitable expertise and roles, further supports this approach. Consequently, the Wargi Manglayang Waste Bank reflects a community-driven development model that is more effective when implemented through a bottom-up framework.

This study employs a phenomenological approach to explore a self-sufficient, community-based intervention model that embodies bottom-up community-driven development. This method enables researchers to objectively observe community actions and analyze self-reliance-based empowerment models. However, the study does not fully address the challenges encountered in enhancing well-being, which limits the identification of barriers to community-driven development. This limitation highlights opportunities for future research to examine the shortcomings of bottom-up community-driven development models.

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