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## The Role of Local Governments in Increasing the Human Development Index as a Barometer in Achieving SDGs in Boalemo District

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### Abstract

*This study aims to: 1) determine the trend of the Human Development Index in Boalemo District and 2) describe the role of local governments in increasing the Human Development Index as a barometer in achieving SDGs. The research method used was a survey with secondary data obtained through various supporting documents available at the Statistics Indonesia and related Service Apparatus Organizations in time series and cross-sections. Data were then processed using descriptive analysis. The results showed that: 1) The Human Development Index in Boalemo District tends to increase from year to year and 2) Local government plays a vital role in developing human resources through education and health, which is implemented starting from the process of planning, organizing, implementing, to evaluating the program. Besides, the government's role is manifested in a commitment to support sustainable budgeting to increase the HDI SDGs optimally.*

*Keywords: Human Development in Boalemo District.*

## I. INTRODUCTION & RESEARCH PROBLEM

Development is a continuous process of improving people's welfare. Since 2015, all development at the global level has been referred to as sustainable development goals or better known as sustainable development goals (SDGs). SDGs are formed by three pillars, with 17 goals to be achieved. The three main pillars that become indicators in the formation of the SDGs development concept are (1) indicators inherent in human development, which is education and health; (2) Indicators attached to their small environment (socio-economic development), which is the availability of environmental facilities and infrastructure as well as economic growth; (3) Indicators attached to the broader environment (environmental development), which is the availability of natural resources and good environmental quality. The Human Development Index is also used as the basis for measuring the success of developing human life quality. Human development efforts are a synergy of all development sectors, both at the central and regional levels. Improving human development status involves all sectors that must start from monitoring and evaluating the achievements obtained. Monitoring and evaluation are useful as a joint performance assessment of all sectors and as an input for future planning. Human development is an effort to acquire and form more individual abilities to enjoy more opportunities to use those abilities in their activities.

Boalemo is one of the districts in Gorontalo Province, with 1,831.33 km<sup>2</sup> (0.15% of the total area of Gorontalo) and 162,181 people. This large population has vast potential and can bring significant benefits if balanced with good quality human resources. On the other hand, a large population with low-quality human resources will become a burden and cause various social problems. One of the elements that can be used to measure the success of the development of the quality of human life (community/population) is the Human Development Index (HDI). Data obtained from the Statistics Indonesia (BPS) in 2020 shows that the HDI of Gorontalo (including Boalemo District) is still below the national standard of 68.49. The three basic dimensions of HDI, namely: (1) long life and healthy life (AHH), (2) knowledge (HLS & RLS), and (3) decent living standards, are still below the national average.

**Table 1.** Life Expectancy (AHH) for the Community of Gorontalo Province

Area	2017		2018		2019	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Gorontalo	65.22	69.20	65.51	69.53	66.01	69.94
Indonesia	69.16	73.06	69.30	73.19	69.44	73.33

*Source: Statistics Indonesia 2020*

**Table 2.** Average Length of Schooling (RLS) By Gender

Area	2017		2018		2019	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Gorontalo	6.98	7.56	7.14	7.76	7.37	8.00
Indonesia	8.56	7.65	8.62	7.72	8.81	7.89

*Source: Statistics Indonesia 2020*

Meanwhile, the dimension of decent living with an indicator of people's purchasing power towards several basic needs shows that per capita expenditure (at constant prices) has reached IDR 10,070,000 in 2019, an increase of IDR 236,000 compared to the previous year's IDR 9,834,000. Also, Gorontalo's economic growth has shown a slowdown in the past three years, namely 6.74% in 2017, 6.51% in 2018, and 6.41% in 2019. Even the highest poverty rate is in Boalemo District, which is 18.87%.

Therefore, in line with the development of the industrialized area, reliable human resources are needed. Human resource development is inseparable from three things: the health, education, and purchasing power indexes, all of which are called the HDI (Human Development Index) (Syarif & Jakfar: 2019). It was also revealed that education and health positively contribute to regional economic growth (Anwar, 2017). It indicates the critical role of education as one of the primary sources for achieving better economic development. Meanwhile, this study's human capital indicators are the average length of schooling for the education index and life expectancy for the health index. Furthermore, Prasetya (2018) also found that improving the quality of Human Resources as one of the factors that trigger economic development needs to be planned appropriately. The same thing is stated by Ita Rustiati Ridwan (2020) in her research that investment in education means investment in human resources where the rate of returns on profit is not as fast as economic ones. However, the high quality of human resources produced through education will increase economic growth. Freshka Hasiani. S (2015) also shows that the quality of human resources in the aspect of life expectancy (X1), average length of schooling (X2), and per capita income (X3) has a positive effect on economic growth.

## II. METHODS

This study employed a survey method and secondary data. Secondary data in the form of time series and cross-section were obtained from the website of Statistics Indonesia and documents available in several official organizations. Data were processed through descriptive analysis. Data analysis was carried out by focusing on 3 (three) basic forming dimensions of HDI: (1) long life and healthy life (AHH), (2) knowledge (HLS & RLS), and (3) a decent standard of living.

## III. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

In general, the trend of all human development indicators in the Boalemo District is positive and has increased over the past decade. Life expectancy, the average length of schooling, length of schooling expectancy, and purchasing power of the community, as indicated by the increase in per capita expenditure levels, are consistent. It means that there has been an improvement in welfare in Boalemo District. From 2010 to 2019, the average life expectancy is 67.48 years, the length of schooling expectancy is 11.8 years, the average length of schooling is 6.2 years, and the average expenditure is almost IDR 8,000,000 million per person per year. The following is data on the development of Boalemo's HDI in the last few years.

**Table 1.** Data on Human Development Index in Gorontalo Province in 2010-2019

Province / District / City	Human Development Index									
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Boalemo District	59.92	60.52	61.11	61.71	62.1 8	62.8 6	63.4 2	64.2 2	64.9 9	65.5 3
Gorontalo District	60	61.04	61.87	62.22	62.9 0	63.6 3	66.2 9	67.0 1	65.7 8	66.6 9
Pohuwato District	59.11	59.85	60.48	61.38	61.7 4	62.5 0	63.1 7	63.8 8	64.4 4	65.2 7

Bone Bolango District	64	64.44	65.13	65.82	66.03	66.83	67.48	68.11	69.06	69.63
Gorontalo Utara District	59.26	59.95	60.71	61.60	61.92	62.55	63.02	63.52	64.06	64.52
Gorontalo City	73.07	73.56	74.06	74.43	74.97	75.62	75.75	76.09	76.53	77.08
<b>GORONTALO PROVINCE</b>	<b>62.65</b>	<b>63.48</b>	<b>64.14</b>	<b>64.70</b>	<b>65.17</b>	<b>65.86</b>	<b>64.22</b>	<b>64.95</b>	<b>67.71</b>	<b>68.49</b>

These indicators impact the increase in the stable human development index during 2010-2019, in which the average is at 62.64. However, this figure requires local government efforts to increase supervision and also demands a firm commitment. Education and health are crucial issues and become mandatory government affairs. Therefore, the Boalemo district government has taken various efforts to increase the human development index. In the education sector, the Boalemo district government has implemented the expansion of access to education, equitable distribution of education, and tuition assistance through BOS and DOS funds. Also, to improve the health status and life expectancy of the community, they have programmed various activities including providing health facilities to remote hamlets, assigning doctors and midwives to villages, providing nutritious food for pregnant women with Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED), increasing the intensity of Posyandu, conducting early detection of pregnancy, establishing alert villages, and coaching alert husbands. As a form of commitment, they also increase the budget from year to year and continue to disseminate information to the public, especially pregnant women and mothers with children under five, through Posyandu activities.

Based on the data description using SWOT analysis, the strategies that should be considered by the Boalemo District Government in increasing the HDI are as follows.

#### 1. Strategies to Improve Health Quality

- a) The demographic bonus of the Boalemo District needs to be accompanied by better nutritional quality to increase community productivity. Malnutrition in toddlers is the leading cause of low growth and development in children. This problem can cause

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certain diseases or interfere with the cognitive development of children. The problem of malnutrition is related to direct food intake for toddlers and mothers' nutritional intake since pregnancy. Therefore, steps that need to be taken are (1) preventing malnutrition in children by providing better nutritional intake to pregnant women. The district government plays an important role, especially for underprivileged families, in preparing adequate nutritional intake for both mothers and children, and (2) providing adequate nutritional intake to children such as exclusive breastfeeding for at least six months, complementary foods in sufficient quantities and adequate time, and breastfeeding for two years. This step must be supported by an adequate budget from the Health Office / Health Center / Posyandu.

- b) Improving the quality and access to health services needs to be carried out by adding more health workers and health facilities, especially the First Level Health Facilities / Health Center located in each district. In health workers, the number of doctors, for example, is inversely proportional to the number of patients. Every year, the number of doctors does not increase significantly, while the number of patients continues to increase in line with the increasing population of the Boalemo District. The contract system for doctors that have been implemented so far should also be accompanied by investment in local human resources prepared as regional health workers. In addition to health workers, health facilities also need to be improved to improve the quality of services and facilitate access to health services for people in isolated and outermost areas.

## 2. Strategies to Improve the Quality and Relevance of Education

- a) The integration of education delivery and information technology is both a necessity and a demand that must be met in the delivery of education in the Boalemo District. This step requires several infrastructures, primarily an internet network and other supporting facilities such as computers/laptops or smartphones and management and technicians. The increasing attention of the government in the education sector, shown by the increase in the budget, is an opportunity that the Boalemo District Government needs to encourage the integration of education delivery and information technology. This integration will make the educational process more comfortable, dynamic, and useful because teachers can develop exciting learning materials using embedded learning systems that students can easily access. Besides, teachers' communication and guidance to students and parents will also be more accessible, more flexible in terms of time, and effective.
- b) The relevance of education delivery to the needs of the regions and the working world

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must be increased so that school or university graduates can easily find jobs or meet labor needs in the regions. This increase in relevance is carried out by increasing the number of vocational education institutions relevant to regional potential such as vocational schools and polytechnics. Boalemo District has potential in the agricultural, marine, livestock, and tourism sectors. The more human resources available in this field, the better the support for developing leading sectors. The dominance of human resources in the public sector and irrelevant to the potentials and needs of the regions makes many high school and university graduates unemployed and unable to contribute positively to regional development.

- c) The participation of school-age children at every level of education at their age, as reflected in the Net Enrollment Rate (NER), must continue to be increased, especially at the higher education level. The NER of Higher Education is still very low, which reflects the limited availability of skilled personnel in the Boalemo District. The low NER of Higher Education is caused by various factors, where the economy is the most dominant factor affecting children's access to higher education. The availability of scholarships/tuition assistance has had a significant impact. In general, students do not continue their education after completing SMA / SMK / MA due to cost factors. To increase the GER (Gross Enrollment Rate) and NER of Higher Education, various central government programs such as the Indonesia Smart Card and the Bidik Misi Scholarships should be utilized optimally, even though it has to go through a long struggle.
- d) The district government must continue to implement programs related to efforts to reduce dropout and illiteracy rates and the Back to School Movement, specifically for school dropouts.
- e) The budgeting policy of 20% must be implemented immediately, accompanied by planning based on the district government's needs and vision.

### 3. Strategies to Increase Public Purchasing Power

- a) Encouraging the implementation of community empowerment, village fund allocation, as well as cross-sectorial OPD (Regional Apparatus Organization) planning;
- b) Building, improving, and maintaining infrastructure supporting community economic improvements such as village roads/farm roads, dams/irrigation, traditional markets, and others;
- c) Designing special programs that can quickly boost the family economy, such as the Sustainable Food Houses (RPL), Family Farming, animal husbandry, home industry for processing fishery products, and others;

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- d) Encouraging the growth of small and medium enterprises that focus on processing local food into superior and innovative products of the village/region and conducting studies on the development of village potentials that can encourage the village economy's growth and increase people's purchasing power.

#### IV. CONCLUSION, IMPLICATIONS, AND SIGNIFICANCE

1. The Human Development Index in Boalemo District tends to increase from year to year. If it continues to be encouraged, various aspects may be affected, including reducing poverty, better economic growth, and others. Therefore, stakeholders need to continue to make improvements in order not only to increase the HDI figures but also to improve the welfare of the people of Boalemo by the vision and mission carried out by the current district government.
2. Based on the interviews and tracing of program and budgeting documents, the district government is committed and consistent in encouraging improvements in the quality of education and health. This commitment and consistency provide strength and opportunity for improving public health so that maternal and infant mortality rates can be reduced and life expectancy can be increased. In the education sector, this commitment and consistency can increase the length of schooling expectancy and the average length of schooling of the community in Boalemo by providing access to educational facilities, tuition assistance, and scholarships.

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