
Indonesia’s development in its border area is a big challenge for the country’s current government derived from the area’s underdevelopment and poverty. This situation, in turn, has to lead to a weak bargaining position concerning the future development of the border area. These conditions have created a never-ending cycle. Thus, changing the perspective of development in the border area by ‘repositioning’ its people through social development is the key to success. Thus, this book extends our knowledge on the issue by employing a number of important and relevant case studies from the districts of Kabupaten Kapuas Hulu, in West Kalimantan.

Written by Professor Henny Warsilah and Doctoral candidate Dede Wardiat, this book describes the issue of strategy development by empowering people in the border area using their potential local natural resources to strengthen the area’s competitiveness. This book emphasizes that this empowerment should not only focus on the security approach but should also concentrate on the prosperity approach, that is, an empowerment using community characteristics as its base, that could become a powerful tool for the community’s future success. A future empowerment program in the border area should cover all aspects of prosperity and sustainability. Further, Warsilah and Wardiat
offer the synergy model to develop the border area by considering different social and physical aspects.

**Economic Growth and Border Areas: The Effects of Exploitation**

In the beginning, this book shows how that government tend to develop dominant economic centers rather than border area. This economic growth strategy has become the dominant economic approach since the New Order regime. Most Investors spread their capital to the border area by extracting business. The effect of this is like a double-edged sword, pushing the development or decreasing environment quality because of massive exploitation activity taking place without law enforcement. In addition, the clean water crisis currently taking place due to the Greenfield conversion, and it is affecting the social and cultural aspects of society.

This book shows several development problems in the border area and the synergy model of the social development. Nugroho and Dahuri (2012) explained the basic issues regarding border area developments, which are: 1) free trade (globalization), 2) limited accessibility of infrastructure, 3) lack of human resource, 4) lack of law enforcement and social service, 5) sectoral development. Warsilah and Wardiat (2017) in turn, have explained in a very comprehensive manner the issues of the border area by adding local knowledge and cultural aspects into the discussion. These include food security, water resource issues, and national integrity.

Kabupaten Kapuas Hulu is one district in Provinsi West Kalimantan and the area is bordering with Malaysia. Geographically, Kabupaten Kapuas Hulu is split by the Kapuas River, which has a significant role to play in transportation and fishery aspects of people living on the island. Further, Kabupaten Kapuas Hulu is one of the most important conservation areas in the province of West Kalimantan. It covers 44% of the protected area in the province, which includes several national parks, such as Betung Kerihun National Park, Danau Sentarum National Park, and other conservation and protected forest areas.

The book mentions that 72% of communities that live in Kabupaten Kapuas Hulu are based on agriculture. Yet, the change from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture has to lead to land-use conflicts, water crisis, and food security problem in the area of Kapuas Hulu. Based
on the result of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) that were conducted with the stakeholders from district to the provincial levels, pollution and clean water crisis have taken place since the capitalists (people who own the means of production) started their operations through their oil palm plantation business which led deforestation. Moreover, this book explains in detail how clean water crisis occurred in the border area due to the establishment of massive palm oil plantation industry by producing crude palm oil and chemical “tuba” which is used for fishing.

The palm oil plantation area has increased significantly in the border area. In 2009, the government only planned to have 1.5 million hectares which were regulated by the border area planning agency (Rencana Tata Ruang Wilayah Perbatasan–RTRW-P). Yet, in reality, the palm oil plantation area reached 4.1 million hectares. This happened because the government and the people who lived there at the time were obsessed with profitability. The government had the tendency to increase incomes, while the capitalists tended to get the highest profits, and the community preferred to increase their income with agriculture activity which plants paddy. (Wahyunto 2009; Suprapto 2009; BSI et.al 2014; Hidayat et.al 2015). The increased palm of oil plantation area is similar to the declining of the forest area of Dayak Tribe (Verbist et.al 2004; Hidayat et.al 2015).

Meanwhile, water pollution has occurred because of the waste/pollution coming from the palm oil factory, which is a direct consequence of increasing palm oil plantations. Another cause for water pollution was a chemical titled “tuba”, which is used for fishing in the Danau Sentarum to receive higher personal incomes. Deteriorating water quality resulting from exploitative activities in water resources has also occurred in the cases of the Bengawan Solo River, the Waduk Cirata and the Waduk Jatiluhur (Mwenera et.al 2013; Komarawidjaja et.al 2005; Hamzah et.al 2016). Deteriorating water quality has led to lower quality of life in communities of Majang Island. Further, the people on Majang Island live in isolation, so getting clean water is extremely difficult.

Kabupaten Kapuas Hulu has rich water resources, which can potentially be used for development in the border area. This book describes how social development could become a decisive effort to manage water resources by encouraging participation from the entire society. People in the border area should have roles as direct supervisors of this water resource management. Different authors have also mentioned that the irrigation system is a social construction that is
not only limited to physical equipment and tools. The main problem regarding the current irrigation system is the exclusivity of farmers. Water resource management has already been mentioned by Law No.7 from 2004. The local government has mandated the management of the water resources. Hence, involving farmers to manage the irrigation and water resources could potentially be beneficial for the border area’s social development.

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MODEL IN THE BORDER AREA: SWOT ANALYSIS**

Kabupaten Kapuas Hulu has 278 villages, consisting of 169 very disadvantaged ones, 99 disadvantaged ones, nine developing one and only one developed one (*Republika* 21 October 2017). Thus, Warsilah and Wardiat (2017) have offered a social development model to answer this condition through a SWOT analysis (strength, weakness, opportunity, and threat) by FGD method. SWOT analysis is used for mapping and identifying several issues, such as 1) problems, 2) strategic issues and 3) comprehensive resources identification (social, cultural, and ecological aspects). The comprehensive resources identification covers several capital aspects which were mentioned by Ellis and Freeman (2005), for instance: social capital, human capital, natural capital, physical capital, and economic capital. This identification is based on historical contexts and in-depth cultural analysis from commodity trend and on the local knowledge that people from Dayak usually exhibit in resource management. The SWOT analysis is very useful to find solutions and opportunities to develop the development planning in the border area. The FGD, in turn, has also identified one of the major weaknesses in the border area, which is a limited physical infrastructure and socio-economic underdevelopment.

Thus, this book offers a synergy model of social development that includes social and areal dimensions (physically) through three main factors: social structure, culture and process (Wirutomo 2012; Warsilah and Wardiat 2017). The book also mentions the importance to build social interaction and interrelation in social development (Warsilah 2017). Prosperity approach is the way to make sure no one is left behind in the border area development. Further, an essential aspect is government commitment to carry out sustainable empowerment (Hidayat 2015). Trust is an important factor that leads people to provide
their feedback/opinions and actively engage in any development efforts by finding a mutual agreement solution. Then, a combination of social and physical development is necessary to have commitment. There are several solutions have been offered namely 1) increasing people’s capacities (knowledge, network, and organization), 2) increasing and developing local commodities (eco-tourism, agriculture, fisheries, etc.), 3) developing physical infrastructure and relocation planning (electricity, water, and road), 4) establishing industrialization of local commodities to increase their added value, 5) monitoring and law enforcement.

On the other hand, this book is also concerned about integrating related stakeholders, for example, those of government institutions and society. Although this book doesn’t mention the previous efforts in detail, it mentions some related stakeholders, and also what kinds of synergies had occurred. This book only briefly mentions the involvement of scientific institutions with the government such as LIPI in the border area management with Regional Planning Institution (Bappeda).

The empowerment model has been offered to empower the people who live in Majang Island and Danau Sentarum. We start by identifying some indicators and options for empowered intervention in social and economic aspects, as well as organizational and fisheries resource management in the lake area. These identification factors are formulated by people participating in strengthening people, consultation, and by monitoring and program evaluation.

Throughout, this book reminds us that all rules, provisions, organizational mechanisms, values, and behaviour need to be open for (inclusive) interaction between the poorer people and government. The good participative development could produce better governance result, increase justice, prosperity, and open equal access to markets. That will leads to create stronger and open-minded and more organization society (Warsilah dan Wardiat 2017).

CONCLUSION

This book offers rich descriptions and explanation on people, and how to implement social development in the border area. This book gives an in-depth and comprehensive account of the identification of major problems in the border area, by using a case study of Kabupaten Kapuas Hulu. The data in this book were systematically collected every stage by using a matrix of SWOT in FGD. The authors give
a systematic, holistic and applicable approach to identify the major problems and formulate the development strategy for the border area.

Furthermore, this book reminds us of the importance to think holistically regarding the issue of development, not only to focus on physical development but also focus on social development issues. Thus it is important to read this book that very useful for an association or activists interested in social or community development. The public and other stakeholders interested in the border area’s social development issues should critically examine the book and employ it as a reference for their future studies.

To conclude, this book provides good descriptions of the development of social, cultural, economic and ecological aspects of the border area of Indonesia by offering a synergy model that integrates physical space model, this book provides less explanations on the important role stakeholders and does little to mention conflict of interests of political will for related actors. In real life conditions, many of the models which have already been offered cannot be implemented by stakeholders and involving people because of conflicting interests and a lack of commitment (Hidayat et.al 2015). Moreover, this book successfully provides a real-world model and analysis strategies, to carry out inclusive development planning.

REFERENCES


