



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SUKA MULIA WASTE BANK IN IMPROVING HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC WELFARE IN PEMATANG JOHAR VILLAGE - LABUHAN DELI DISTRICT

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Abstract

The issue of suboptimal waste management often leads to environmental pollution and neglects the economic potential of household waste. Amidst this issue, the waste bank program emerges as an innovative solution that not only reduces waste volume but also empowers the community economically. This study aims to analyze the role of the Suka Mulia Waste Bank in improving the economic welfare of the community in Pematang Johar Village, Labuhan Deli District. The study uses a qualitative approach with data collection techniques including observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The results show that the waste bank plays a significant role in enhancing community welfare through several mechanisms. First, it provides economic incentives such as waste payments, waste savings, and programs to exchange waste for basic needs. Second, it opens new business opportunities through training in recycling waste into economically valuable products such as eco-bricks, paving blocks, liquid fertilizer, and handicrafts. Third, it expands access to social assistance and public services through programs such as paying BPJS premiums, land taxes (PBB), and even school fees from waste savings. This program also fosters environmental awareness and a household-level culture of waste sorting. The success of the waste bank's implementation is supported by active community participation, village government support, and the involvement of external institutions. Therefore, the waste bank program must continue to be developed with cross-sectoral support so that its benefits can be widely felt, sustainable, and become a model of environmentally based community empowerment.

Keywords: Community Empowerment; Waste Bank; Economic Welfare; Waste Management.

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Abstrak

Masalah pengelolaan sampah yang belum optimal seringkali menjadi penyebab pencemaran lingkungan dan terabaikannya potensi ekonomi dari limbah rumah tangga. Di tengah persoalan ini, program bank sampah muncul sebagai solusi inovatif yang tidak hanya berfungsi mengurangi volume sampah, tetapi juga mampu memberdayakan masyarakat dari segi ekonomi. Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menganalisis peran Bank Sampah Suka Mulia dalam meningkatkan kesejahteraan ekonomi masyarakat di Desa Pematang Johar, Kecamatan Labuhan Deli. Penelitian menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan teknik pengumpulan data berupa observasi, wawancara mendalam, dan dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa bank sampah berperan secara signifikan dalam meningkatkan kesejahteraan masyarakat melalui beberapa mekanisme. Pertama, memberikan insentif ekonomi seperti pembayaran sampah, tabungan sampah, dan program penukaran sampah menjadi kebutuhan pokok. Kedua, membuka peluang usaha baru melalui pelatihan daur ulang sampah menjadi produk bernilai ekonomi seperti eco-brick, paving block, pupuk cair, dan kerajinan tangan. Ketiga, memperluas akses bantuan sosial dan layanan publik melalui program pembayaran iuran BPJS, PBB, bahkan biaya sekolah dari hasil menabung sampah. Program ini juga mendorong tumbuhnya kesadaran lingkungan dan budaya memilah sampah di tingkat rumah tangga. Keberhasilan pelaksanaan bank sampah ini ditopang oleh partisipasi aktif masyarakat, dukungan pemerintah desa, dan keterlibatan lembaga eksternal. Oleh karena itu, program bank sampah perlu terus dikembangkan dengan dukungan lintas sektor agar manfaatnya dapat dirasakan secara luas, berkelanjutan, dan menjadi model pemberdayaan masyarakat berbasis lingkungan.

Kata Kunci: Pemberdayaan Masyarakat; Bank Sampah; Kesejahteraan Ekonomi; Pengelolaan Sampah.

INTRODUCTION

Environmental issues have become a major concern in various community studies. Today's environmental degradation is not only caused by natural factors but also by human activities that are not environmentally friendly.¹ One of the most prominent problems is the increasing amount of household waste as consumption grows, while landfill space becomes more limited.² Waste has now become a serious problem in urban Indonesia due to population growth and human activity, which, if not managed properly, can lead to various impacts.³ Based on the performance achievements of waste management from the

¹Asadiya, F., & Hamid, A. (2024). Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Melalui Bank Sampah Dalam Meningkatkan Kesejahteraan Keluarga. *RISOMA: Jurnal Riset Sosial Humaniora dan Pendidikan*, 2(2), 54-60.

²Amallia, N., Dewi, L. K., Kusumastuti, H., Asmaria, A., & Fadillah, N. (2024). Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Melalui Bank Sampah Dalam Meningkatkan Kesejahteraan Masyarakat Di Kelurahan Sumberejo Sejahtera Kecamatan Kemiling Bandar Lampung. *Jurnal Sosial dan Humanis Sains (JSHS)*, 9(1), 14-26.

³Sa'diyah, A. F., Purnomo, E. P., and Kasiwi, A. N. 2020. "Waste Management in the Implementation of Smart City in Bogor City" (*Manajemen Sampah dalam Implementasi Smart City di Kota Bogor*). *Journal of Government Science Widya Praja* 46(1): 271-279. <https://doi.org/10.33701/jipwp.v46i1.773>.

National Waste Management Information System (SIPSN) report, the annual waste generation in Indonesia in 2024 was recorded at 33.9 million tons. Of that amount, waste reduction reached only 13.22%, waste handling amounted to 46.61%, so the total managed waste was only 59.83%. The remaining 40.17% of waste remains unmanaged and poses a risk of environmental pollution.⁴ Negative impacts such as soil and water pollution, clogged drainage, health issues, and disaster risks like flooding can arise if the waste problem is not addressed.

This condition is worsened by the weak integrated waste management system and the lack of active community participation. Therefore, strategic approaches are needed that not only address environmental aspects but also empower communities socially and economically. Unequal community welfare is also an inseparable issue from environmental concerns. Many communities, especially in rural areas, still live in poverty and struggle to meet basic needs due to limited access to the economy, education, and employment. Data from Statistics Indonesia (BPS) shows that as of September 2024, the percentage of poor people in rural areas reached 11.34%, higher than the 6.66% in urban areas.⁵

This phenomenon is also evident in Pematang Johar Village, Labuhan Deli District, which still faces inadequate household waste management. Improper waste handling has caused environmental pollution, clogged waterways, and the emergence of various diseases. Public awareness of environmentally friendly waste management remains low, so waste is often viewed merely as useless trash. On the other hand, the level of economic welfare in Pematang Johar Village is relatively low. Most of the residents work as farmers, relying on unstable daily incomes. Limited business opportunities are a major hindrance to improving the community's economy. Therefore, a solution is needed that integrates community empowerment, economic improvement, and environmental management.

The waste bank is a relevant innovation for addressing waste management problems. This system plays a major role in solving waste issues by giving economic value to waste while supporting government policies such as Government Regulation No. 81 of 2012, which mandates the implementation of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) by producers.⁶ In practice, the waste bank is managed like a banking institution: residents become customers who deposit dry waste, receive a savings book, and earn rewards based on the weight and type of waste deposited. The collected waste is then sold to business partners or factories and can even be used as collateral for microloans.⁷ In addition to fostering environmental awareness, the waste bank also creates new business opportunities, such as handicrafts or recycled products, thereby increasing income and community welfare.

⁴SIPSN. 2024. "Performance Achievement of Waste Management" (*Capaian Kinerja Pengelolaan Sampah*). SIPSN. <https://sipsn.menlhk.go.id/sipsn/> (accessed May 29, 2025).

⁵Zuhdi, N. 2025. "Indonesia's Poor Population Reaches 24.06 Million, BPS: Decreased by One Million" (*Total Penduduk Miskin Indonesia 24,06 Juta Orang, BPS: Berkurang Sejutaan*). *Metrotvnews.com*. <https://www.metrotvnews.com/read/nlmcjp9l-total-penduduk-miskin-indonesia-24-06-juta-orang-bps-berkurang-sejutaan>(accessed May 29, 2025).

⁶Nani, S., and Selvi, S. 2019. "The Role of Waste Banks in Increasing the Income of Women in Pentadu Barat Village, Tilamuta District, Boalemo Regency" (*Peran Bank Sampah dalam Meningkatkan Pendapatan Ibu-Ibu Desa Pentadu Barat Kecamatan Tilamuta Kabupaten Boalemo*). *Pangabdhi Scientific Journal* 5(2): 143–154. <https://doi.org/10.21107/pangabdhi.v5i2.6199>.

⁷Hikmah Perkasa, D., Fathihani, and Apriani, A. 2021. "Community Empowerment through the Establishment of Waste Banks in Tanjung Duren Subdistrict" (*Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Melalui Pendirian Bank Sampah di Kelurahan Tanjung Duren*). *Community Service Journal (Andhara)* 1(2): 19–27. <http://jurnal.undira.ac.id/index.php/jpmk/>.

The existence of the waste bank in Pematang Johar Village reflects a growing awareness among some community members about environmental conservation. However, the effectiveness of the waste bank in solving waste problems has yet to be fully realized due to various constraints and a lengthy process. Low public awareness of proper waste management is a major obstacle to the development of the waste bank in Pematang Johar Village. Many residents still dispose of waste carelessly without considering its environmental and health impacts. Therefore, mass socialization to the residents of Pematang Johar Village is crucial to raise awareness of the importance of separating organic and inorganic waste.

According to Firdaus & Pratiwi, household waste management is vital and aligns with Islamic teachings that emphasize cleanliness, environmental preservation, and gratitude to Allah Swt.⁸ Islam encourages the prevention and reduction of waste generation as a responsibility to protect the Earth, as emphasized in the Hadith of Prophet Muhammad SAW on the importance of maintaining goodness and avoiding environmental damage. Therefore, wise waste management is a duty for Muslims. With the presence of a waste bank, it can effectively address waste issues, prevent environmental pollution, and motivate the public not to litter. This initiative is also important in preventing floods and disease outbreaks that may result from water pollution caused by waste.

Community empowerment is an effort to improve public welfare. To achieve empowerment goals that include independence and welfare enhancement, good planning or strategy is required.⁹ Community empowerment is carried out by enhancing community capabilities, creativity, and thinking power and creating an environment that supports the development of their potential. One method of empowerment is through the waste bank program, which aims to improve quality of life. By managing waste effectively, this program not only provides additional income but also plays a crucial role in maintaining environmental cleanliness and raising awareness about the importance of environmental protection.

Previous studies that form the basis of this research include a journal titled "Community Empowerment Through Waste Management at Waste Bank" by Putra & Ismaniar.¹⁰ This study revealed increased community participation in waste management at the Panca Daya Waste Bank, Kuranji District, Padang City. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, data were obtained from waste bank managers, facilitators, and customers. The results revealed five stages of community empowerment: enabling, strengthening, protecting, supporting, and maintaining. Another study by Maya, titled "Community Empowerment Through Waste Management Into Economic Value and the Establishment of Waste Bank in Pentadu Timur Village, Tilamuta District, Boalemo Regency" highlighted the role of government and community in educating environmental

⁸Firdaus and Pratiwi, H. Sekar. 2023. "Household Waste Management Practices from the Perspective of Islamic Jurisprudence" (*Praktik Pengelolaan Sampah Rumah Tangga dalam Perspektif Fiqih*). *Innovative: Journal of Social Science Research* 3(2): 7629-7642. <https://j-innovative.org/index.php/innovative/article/view/3034/2151>.

⁹Agusri, A. et al. 2024. *Textbook on Health Promotion (Buku Ajar Promosi Kesehatan)*. Jakarta: Pt. Sonpedia Publishing Indonesia.

¹⁰Putra, W. T., and Ismaniar. 2020. "Community Empowerment through Waste Management at Waste Banks" (*Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Melalui Pengelolaan Sampah di Bank Sampah*). *Jambura Journal of Community Empowerment* 1(2): 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.37411/jjce.v1i2.569>.

awareness and utilizing waste as an economic resource.¹¹ The program included outreach, training, school waste bank establishment, and marketing of recycled products to improve community welfare through the economic value of waste.

Both previous studies have shown that waste management and waste banks enhance community empowerment. However, few studies have explored how to optimize waste bank utilization in rural areas with unique socio-economic and cultural problems. Moreover, there is a lack of research that combines community empowerment, environmental sustainability, and economic strengthening in a single context.

Pematang Johar Village is currently facing multiple challenges, including low environmental awareness, ineffective waste management, and limited economic opportunities. With the Suka Mulia waste bank program, the community is expected to participate more actively in maintaining environmental cleanliness while increasing household income. This program has the potential to become a sustainable solution for creating an independent and prosperous village. Therefore, this study aims to examine the extent to which the Suka Mulia waste bank program can serve as a tool for community empowerment in improving economic welfare while addressing environmental problems in Pematang Johar Village, Labuhan Deli District.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative method through the presentation of data in an analytical-descriptive manner. The qualitative method is a research approach aimed at understanding social phenomena or human behavior through the perspective of the subjects involved in the research. This study focuses on the meanings, experiences, and views of individuals or groups within their natural context.¹² This method was chosen because it allows the researcher to thoroughly examine the procedures, tactics, and problems faced by the community in managing waste through the waste bank program.

Data collection techniques in this study were carried out through interviews, observation, and documentation. The researcher conducted direct observation in Pematang Johar Village to understand the real situation in the field. Interviews were conducted with the Head of Pematang Johar Village and several informants from the local community, namely Mrs. Satrisni, Mrs. Mirniati, and Mrs. Nurhayati. These informants were considered by the researcher to represent the focus of the study. The selection of informants was done purposively, taking into account the surrounding environment and recommendations from field relations who assisted in the identification process.

This study was conducted in Pematang Johar Village, Labuhan Deli Sub-district, Deli Serdang Regency. This location was chosen based on the unique conditions of the village, which has socio-economic challenges and a level of environmental awareness different from other areas. This research was conducted in December 2024, encompassing all stages from planning, data collection, analysis, to reporting the research findings.

¹¹Maya, S., Haryono, S., and Kholisya, U. 2018. "Community Empowerment through Waste Management into Economic Value and Waste Bank Formation in Tanjung Barat Subdistrict" (*Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Melalui Pengelolaan Sampah Menjadi Nilai Ekonomis dan Pembentukan Bank Sampah di Kelurahan Tanjung Barat*). *Proceeding of Community Development* 1(2): 157. <https://doi.org/10.30874/comdev.2017.21>.

¹²Detri Karya, Kusumastuti, Y., Eka Rakhmat Kabul, M. S., Mantong, S. H. M. S., and Sjukun, S. T. S. M. M. 2024. *Qualitative Research Methodology (Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif)*. Jakarta: Takaza Innovatix Labs.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A. Community Empowerment Through Suka Mulia Waste Bank in Improving the Economic Welfare of the Community in Pematang Johar Village

Pematang Johar is a village located in Labuhan Deli Subdistrict, Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra Province, Indonesia. The community of Pematang Johar Village relies on various sources of livelihood, but the most dominant sector is wet rice farming. This village has a very large potential for wet rice agriculture, with rice field areas reaching 1,750 hectares. Moreover, Pematang Johar Village, Labuhan Deli Subdistrict, has great potential to develop environment-based programs that can improve the community's economic welfare.

Economic welfare of the community is a condition where the community has adequate access to economic resources, a decent income, and economic stability that supports a prosperous life. This includes factors such as income level, employment opportunities, fair wealth distribution, access to basic services, and financial security.¹³ One of the efforts to improve the economic welfare of the community is through community empowerment programs, one of which is by developing the concept of a waste bank. A waste bank is a place for sorting and collecting waste that can be recycled or reused and has economic value.¹⁴ This concept resembles a banking institution, but the deposits or investments are in the form of waste. Like a conventional bank, customers can open accounts, deposit weighed waste, and receive monetary value according to the price set by the waste bank.¹⁵

Pematang Johar Village is one of the areas with great potential for wet rice agriculture in Deli Serdang Regency. Despite this potential, the village also faces major problems in environmental management, especially regarding household waste. Improperly managed waste can pollute the environment and cause diseases. To address this problem, the Pematang Johar Village Government collaborated with the community to initiate an environment-based empowerment program in 2020. Suka Mulia Waste Bank was established in Hamlet 15 and now has approximately 60 active customers. This program is part of the "Benah Dusun, Bangun Desa" (Clean Hamlet, Build Village) movement and is implemented gradually with a hamlet-based approach, tailored to the characteristics and potential of each hamlet.

According to the Head of Pematang Johar Village, Mr. Sudarman, the waste bank program began with educating the community about the importance of sorting waste and the negative impacts of waste on the environment. This education aims to change the community's mindset from considering waste as worthless garbage to viewing it as an economic resource. In his interview, Mr. Sudarman stated:

"Waste can be beneficial for the environment, individuals, and the economy. Therefore, we started with education—beginning with sorting waste into waste that can directly be converted

¹³Todaro, Michael P., and Stephen C. Smith. 2006. *Economic Development*. Boston: Pearson Addison Wesley.

¹⁴Seftiani, S. 2024. *Green Economy Practices in Indonesia (Praktik Ekonomi Hijau di Indonesia)*. Jakarta: Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.

¹⁵Fefti Yulian Mela, S. E. M. A. C. P. A. A., Hidayat, S. E. M. M. C., Khairul Sabri, S. K. M. K., and Luth Fimawahib, M. K. n.d. *Web-Based Waste Bank Management (Manajemen Bank Sampah Berbasis Web)*. [Place unknown]: [Publisher unknown].

into money, such as cardboard, bottles, and others. These can immediately become money. But there is also waste that must be recycled.”¹⁶

Suka Mulia Waste Bank operates by collecting inorganic waste from the community, such as cardboard, plastic bottles, and other recyclable materials. This waste is collected next to houses, then picked up by managers for sorting and sale. Mrs. Murniati, one of the managers, stated that the existence of the waste bank has brought significant changes to environmental conditions:

“Because of Suka Mulia Waste Bank, the environment looks clean, beautiful, and charming.”¹⁷

Beyond just maintaining cleanliness, this waste management also provides tangible economic benefits for residents. Investment in waste processing has created new job opportunities and increased income for the community, especially among MSME actors and the informal sector. Recycled products such as crafts made from plastic or scrap fabric can be sold at a reasonable price because the raw materials are cheap or even worthless. Through programs like the waste bank, the community can exchange inorganic waste for money or basic necessities, thus obtaining additional income and becoming more active in maintaining the environment.¹⁸ This phenomenon aligns with behaviorism theory, where the community is taught new behavior (sorting waste) and rewarded (in the form of money or goods). This encourages the community to consistently practice positive habits, namely maintaining environmental cleanliness while gaining economic benefits.¹⁹

The system implemented at Suka Mulia Waste Bank does not immediately disburse the value of waste deposits in cash. The community must wait for one month to withdraw the value of their deposits. This system is designed so that the community can feel the economic benefits of waste over a certain period while cultivating a culture of saving and sustainable waste management.

Waste management at the waste bank is carried out by sorting waste based on material types, such as plastic, paper, glass, cans, and others. This waste can then be directly sold to collectors or reprocessed by applying the 3R principles: reduce, reuse, recycle.²⁰ The reduce principle means efforts to minimize waste generation from the source, for example by avoiding single-use materials. Reuse refers to reusing waste that still has value, either for the same function or for different uses. Meanwhile, recycle means reprocessing waste into new, useful products.²¹

¹⁶Interview, 2025.

¹⁷Interview, 2025.

¹⁸Efendi Agus, M. S. 2024. *Social Construction Analysis of Community Empowerment through Waste Processing at Mutiara Waste Bank in Medan City (Analisis Konstruksi Sosial Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Melalui Pengolahan Sampah pada Bank Sampah Mutiara Kota Medan)*. Medan: UMSU Press.

¹⁹Shinta, A. and Publisher, B. 2019. *Strengthening Pro-Environmental Education in Schools to Increase Youth Environmental Awareness (Penguatan Pendidikan Pro-Lingkungan Hidup di Sekolah-Sekolah untuk Meningkatkan Kepedulian Generasi Muda pada Lingkungan Hidup)*. Jakarta: Best Media.

²⁰Mursyid, M. 2019. *Literacy-Based Community Empowerment (Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Berbasis Literasi)*. Yogyakarta: Azyan Mitra Media.

²¹Endi Adriansyah, S. T. M. T. et al. 2023. *Waste Management and Processing Technology (Teknologi Pengelolaan dan Pengolahan Sampah)*. Jakarta: Edu Publisher.

These 3R principles are also applied at Suka Mulia Waste Bank. Based on interviews with the Head of Pematang Johar Village, Mr. Sudarman, Suka Mulia Waste Bank functions not only as a waste collection site but also as an educational medium for the community to begin sorting and utilizing waste wisely. Waste deposited by residents is separated by type, then sorted. Some are sold directly to collectors, while others are processed into value-added products. Through this approach, Suka Mulia Waste Bank contributes to reducing the volume of waste polluting the environment, while also instilling a culture of clean and environmentally friendly living among the community. This also aligns with urban waste management, which includes three main stages: collection, transportation, and final disposal. Waste is collected from the source to temporary storage sites, then transported by special vehicles to final disposal sites (TPA). At the TPA, waste is processed thoroughly through physical, chemical, or biological methods.²²

Suka Mulia Waste Bank shows strong commitment not only as a waste storage place but also as an environmental education center for all community layers—from households to school children in Pematang Johar Village. In its implementation, this waste bank continuously presents various innovations in waste management, such as processing waste into paving blocks, liquid fertilizer, eco bricks, and crafts with market value. These innovations not only impact economic improvement but also succeed in fostering collective awareness for sustainable environmental cleanliness. The staff of Suka Mulia Waste Bank hopes for active community participation, especially in sorting waste from home and delivering it directly to the waste bank. This collaborative spirit is key to the success of the program. Furthermore, Suka Mulia Waste Bank also designs interesting programs as appreciation for residents' participation, such as payment of BPJS contributions, land and building tax (PBB), and even education fees which can be covered through waste savings.

Support from various parties further strengthens this program's existence. Various agencies and institutions, including the Environmental Service, State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN), Medan Industrial Area Company (PT KIM), and other industrial companies participate in supporting Suka Mulia Waste Bank, both through providing facilities such as waste grinding machines and other supporting means from government programs. This initiative also aligns with national regulations, namely Law No. 18 Year 2008 on Waste Management and Government Regulation No. 81 Year 2012 on Household Waste Management, which encourage community-based waste management. Waste banks as social-economic institutions help the government reduce the burden on landfill sites, expand environmental awareness, and improve community welfare.

Based on interviews and observations, the biggest challenge in implementing Suka Mulia Waste Bank program is the low awareness of the community. Some residents still consider this program unimportant, choosing shortcuts by disposing of waste carelessly. The lack of understanding of the long-term benefits of waste management results in less than optimal community participation. The Pematang Johar Village Government hopes to achieve full awareness (100%) from all residents so that the village environment can be cleaner, healthier, and support collective welfare without any party being harmed.

The words of Allah Swt in the Qur'an:

²²Syahrudin, A., and Putri, M. 2022. *KUPAS: Community Independence Innovation in Panggungharjo through Waste Management (Kupas: Inovasi Kemandirian Masyarakat Panggungharjo Melalui Pengelolaan Sampah)*. Yogyakarta: Pandiva Buku.

وَقُلْ أَعْمَلُوا فَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَسَتُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عِلْمِ الْغَيْبِ
وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَيُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ١٠٥

Meaning: *And say, "Do [as you will], for Allah will see your deeds, and [so, will] His Messenger and the believers. And you will be returned to the Knower of the unseen and the witnessed, and He will inform you of what you used to do."* (QS At Taubah [9]: 105).

The above verse becomes a spiritual foundation that every hard work, including in maintaining the environment, will be accounted for by Allah Swt. With the spirit of mutual cooperation and collective awareness, waste management through Suka Mulia Waste Bank is expected to become one of the important instruments in creating a clean, healthy, and prosperous village sustainably.

B. Economic and Social Impact of the Suka Mulia Waste Bank Program in Pematang Johar Village

The community empowerment program through the Suka Mulia Waste Bank in Pematang Johar Village shows significant impacts, both in economic, social, and environmental aspects. The Suka Mulia Waste Bank itself has a commitment to accommodate and educate the community, not only about material issues but also education down to households, school children, and all layers of society in Pematang Johar Village. This commitment is demonstrated through various activities and creative innovations. The Suka Mulia Waste Bank has created several innovations, such as waste that can be processed into paving blocks, liquid fertilizer, eco bricks, and decorations. These innovations are able to increase the community's motivation to maintain environmental cleanliness and see waste potential as something useful and valuable.

One of the main hopes of the Suka Mulia Waste Bank officers is that the community is willing to sort and deliver their waste directly to the waste bank. This action is considered a positive step that supports the sustainability of the waste bank's operations. The more people involved and aware of the importance of sorting waste, the more optimal the performance and benefits produced by this waste bank.

In addition, the Suka Mulia Waste Bank also offers attractive programs that can encourage community participation. These programs include waste exchange for free BPJS payments, free PBB payments, and even free school payments. This scheme becomes a particular attraction because it helps the community manage household finances from a source previously considered worthless, namely waste. Support for this program also comes from various institutions and agencies, such as the Environmental Agency, State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN), PT KIM, and other industrial companies. This support takes the form of additional facilities such as waste grinding machines, as well as other assistance from the government.

From the community side, this program receives a positive response. Mrs. Nurhayati stated that the Suka Mulia Waste Bank program is very good because waste that cannot be used can be recycled into various decorations, eco bricks, and other products. This program provides many benefits, where waste that was previously discarded can now be sold and generate money. Moreover, the existence of the Suka Mulia Waste Bank also helps maintain environmental cleanliness.

Similarly, Mrs. Satrisni explained that recyclable waste is collected by the waste bank management. With the establishment of the Suka Mulia Waste Bank, the amount of waste produced in the local community environment has decreased. Previously, the community burned much of the waste as the main way to reduce it. However, now, thanks to the presence of the Suka Mulia Waste Bank, waste can be collected, converted into money, and provide greater benefits.

Effective waste management, by classifying it as a source of economic value that can be saved, shows that waste bank empowerment has succeeded in improving the community's economy. Through this approach, the basic needs of families can be better fulfilled. The waste bank's efforts to improve the economic capacity of the community are inseparable from good cooperation between waste bank employees and the surrounding residents. In implementing the economic empowerment program, for example by involving and appealing to the village head, they strive to make the community members customers of the waste bank as well as visit community groups to provide support.²³

The benefits of waste management can provide significant added value. In addition, these waste management activities also open insights to develop the potential of economically valuable waste, especially the waste bank program.²⁴ Thus, the concept of waste management by the waste bank not only promotes the goal of effective and sustainable waste management but also adheres to environmental values and community welfare. Through the implementation of the zero squander concept, increasing community awareness, economic support, and positive contributions to the environment, the Suka Mulia Waste Bank becomes a local change agent that is useful in addressing waste management challenges at the village level. These goals holistically form a foundation to create a cleaner, more sustainable environment and empower the community comprehensively.²⁵

The Suka Mulia Waste Bank has provided various incentives for the community, which of course bring many benefits, including:

1. Encouraging community involvement in waste management.
2. Increasing community awareness of the importance of maintaining environmental cleanliness.
3. Increasing the economic value of waste.
4. Helping the community improve their welfare.

However, cooperation between the Waste Bank and the community is needed to increase the effectiveness of providing incentives and achieve sustainable waste management goals. This is due to limited funds, lack of community awareness about the benefits of incentives, and lack of coordination between waste banks. Essentially, the network of waste banks managed by the community provides sorting, collection, and waste

²³Akhyar Anshori, S. S. M. I. K. et al. 2021. *Global & Contemporary Issues: Analysis and Field Facts (Isu Global & Kontemporer: Analisis dan Fakta Lapangan)*. Medan: UMSU Press.

²⁴Apriani, D., Robiani, B., Asngari, I., Marissa, F., and Setiawan, S. P. 2022. "Waste Banks for Community Welfare and Economy in Kota Daro II Ogan Ilir Village" (*Bank Sampah untuk Kesejahteraan dan Ekonomi Masyarakat di Desa Kota Daro II Ogan Ilir*). *Journal of Economic Empowerment* 1(2): 69-78. <https://doi.org/10.35912/jpe.v1i2.714>.

²⁵Setyaningsih, E. et al. 2023. *Technological and Social Innovation: For Waste Bank Performance to Support the Yogyakarta Zero Waste Movement (Inovasi Teknologi dan Sosial: Untuk Kinerja Bank Sampah Guna Mendukung Gerakan Yogyakarta Zero Sampah)*. Yogyakarta: Asadel Liamsindo Teknologi.

processing services. It also provides incentives to encourage community participation in waste management.

The types of incentives given include economic and non-economic incentives,²⁶ as follows:

1. Economic Incentives

Economic incentives can be material or financial rewards received by the community as compensation for their participation in sorting and depositing waste at the Suka Mulia Waste Bank. Economic incentives can come in various forms, such as:

- a) Waste payments; the waste bank buys waste from the community at predetermined prices. The price depends on the type and quality. Waste types are divided into: plastic waste differentiated into 40 types (e.g., PET bottles, plastic cups, clear plastic, colored plastic, HDPE, and others), paper waste divided into 9 types (such as newspaper, cardboard, used HVS paper, magazines, and others), metal waste divided into 15 types (such as aluminum cans, iron metals, zinc, and others), and bottle and glass waste divided into 8 types (such as clear glass bottles, green, brown, and others).
- b) Waste savings; this system allows the community to save waste. Deposited waste will be recorded in the customer savings book and exchanged for money.
- c) Waste loans: the community can borrow money using waste savings as collateral. The community can access emergency funds or small business capital with collateral in the form of their waste savings balance.
- d) Grants: providing grants in the form of tools or small business capital to community groups assessed to be actively, regularly, and impactfully involved in waste management.

2. Non-Economic Incentives

Non-economic incentives aim to increase the capacity, motivation, and knowledge of the community in waste management, such as:

- a) The Suka Mulia Waste Bank periodically holds educational activities such as counseling, training on processing waste into sellable goods (compost, crafts, eco-bricks), and environmental education for school children and housewives.
- b) Community members who are active and excel in waste management are given awards by the Waste Bank, either individually or in groups. The awards can be in the form of certificates, prizes, or publications as role models for other residents.
- c) Comparative study visits, where the Waste Bank facilitates visits to other waste banks both within and outside the region that are more advanced. This activity aims to exchange experiences, observe best practices, and broaden community insights in developing more creative and efficient waste management.
- d) Information access, where the Waste Bank provides information about waste management to the community. This allows the community to continuously gain new knowledge about sorting, processing, and utilizing waste sustainably.

²⁶Hendra, A., Setiawan, I., and Si, D. N. H. M. 2024. *Collaborative Governance: A Study of Waste Management towards Zero Waste Zero Emission in Malang City, East Java Province (Collaborative Governance: Suatu Studi Pengelolaan Sampah dalam Mewujudkan Zero Waste Zero Emission di Kota Malang Provinsi Jawa Timur)*. Malang: CV. RTujuh Media Printing.

CONCLUSION

The community empowerment through the Suka Mulia Waste Bank program in Pematang Johar Village, Labuhan Deli District, has proven to provide a significant positive impact on improving the economic welfare of residents while preserving environmental sustainability. This program is not only a solution for more efficient and environmentally friendly waste management but also opens new economic opportunities for the community through incentive systems such as waste payment, waste savings, and the utilization of waste into marketable products like paving blocks, liquid fertilizer, eco-bricks, and handicrafts. Active participation of the community in sorting, collecting, and recycling waste has increased environmental awareness and created a cleaner, healthier, and more productive environment. This initiative also encourages the emergence of local innovations and strengthens a sustainable community-based economy. The success of this program demonstrates that community-based waste management can be an effective strategy in building residents' economic independence. This is inseparable from the synergy between the waste bank management, village government, community members, and various supporting parties such as the Environmental Agency, State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN), and industrial companies.

The practical implications of these findings indicate the importance of policy support from local governments, provision of adequate facilities, and ongoing environmental education. Therefore, the researcher recommends that the waste bank management continue to enhance innovations and cross-sector collaborations, the community becomes more active and consistent in sorting and delivering waste, and the government expands support through regulations, training, and incentives that encourage the sustainability of this waste bank program. With these measures, community empowerment through waste management can be expanded to other regions as a model of integrated economic development and environmental conservation.

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