INTEGRATING DEVELOPMENT VILLAGE INDEX GOVERNANCE FOR ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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Abstract

Village disparities remain a persistent challenge in achieving equitable and sustainable development. This study addresses the problem of fragmented governance in village development by analyzing the convergence of the Development Village Index (*Index Desa Membangun*, IDM) with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The purpose is to evaluate how IDM's five-tier classification, ranging from very underdeveloped to independent villages, supports SDG achievement. A qualitative descriptive method was used to analyze IDM data issued by the Ministry of Village, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration from 2016 to 2022. The findings reveal three key roles of IDM governance: providing structured data for decision-making and intervention planning, enhancing the effectiveness of village development programs, and partially supporting SDGs, with limited alignment observed in SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 14 (life below water). The study concludes that IDM governance contributes significantly to SDG progress but requires further integration for comprehensive impact. This paper is relevant for policymakers and practitioners seeking data-driven strategies to accelerate sustainable rural development and improve policy coherence at the local level.

Keywords: Convergence, Governance, Development Village Index, Acceleration, Sustainable Development Goals

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1. INTRODUCTION

Convergence has prompted countries to strive for independence despite cultural, historical, political, resource, and economic variations (Bradley, 2011; Kneissel et al., 1974). Convergence seeks to eradicate traditional perspectives by harmoniously and gradually integrating the economic systems of both Eastern and Western countries. In countries such as China, Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam, convergence is achieved through multi-party cooperation, highlighting the dialectical relationship between convergence and divergence (Ba, 2014; Liu & Li, 2016; Al Mamun & Badir, 2014). The outcome is a synergistically improved social network that impacts interactions due to the amalgamation of multiple dimensions.

Furthermore, the dispositional approach to social movements is employed to identify psychological traits that impact individuals' inclination to converge with like-minded others (Zhu & Warner, 2019). The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) convergence signifies the joint endeavors to achieve more integrated progress by implementing policy solutions to eliminate socio-economic gaps within ASEAN (Verico, 2023). Several crucial aspects are combined, although security considerations also contribute to preserving its genuineness. A unified market and production base is collaboratively integrated across several knowledge, technology, and development domains to promote comprehensive and sustainable economic expansion.

Researchers in the convergence analysis field specifically examine Indonesia's village-level development convergence phenomenon. The Indonesian government has officially approved the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since 2015 to enhance rural people's well-being by gradually eliminating poverty (Morita et al., 2020). Village development convergence encompasses multiple interconnected aspects integrated into a unified entity to facilitate the execution of the smart village concept, which aims to meet the SDGs. Village governance and leadership, asset use, and village financing systems are crucial in determining rural communities' economic and social inclusivity (Kagungan & Rosalia, 2022). In addition, the period of modernization has enabled the central government to construct intelligent and environmentally friendly villages by employing technology throughout the entire process, as stated by Nadia and Mahi (2023).

However, governance convergence faces challenges due to disparities in levels of progress. These disparities have consequences for improving the quality and quantity of human resources. This means some underdeveloped or developing villages may need to work together to speed their development (Jamal et al., 2023). Policymakers can collectively tackle these factors to enhance the overall convergence of rural development in Indonesia.

Empirical evidence demonstrates that villages exhibit different degrees of advancement, specifically independent, developed, developing, underdeveloped, and very underdeveloped villages (Rantala et al., 2022). Each level of advancement necessitates programs that align with the available budget and necessitate suitable intervention from the government and regional authorities (Matridi et al., 2015). The government's decision to utilize the Development Village Index (*Index Desa Membangun*, IDM) program for managing village data in this context is promising, as it suggests that data will be accessible to meet development requirements, thereby expediting the achievement of the SDGs. The village development acceleration program is a structured approach aimed at achieving community empowerment by maximizing the potential of villages and the engagement of government and regional authorities (Feng et al., 2019).

Acceleration of village development is important, considering that most of Indonesia's total area is rural, so implementing SDGs in villages plays a strategic role. There are at least three reasons why implementing the SDGs in villages is important. First, of Indonesia's 83,467 villages and sub-villages, 89.81% are villages, and 10.19% are sub-villages (Kusnandar, 2022). This is one of the reasons for the government's partiality and exceptional attention to villages and village development (Kapoor et al., 2021). Based on this, a special policy was finally issued as a law regulating villages (Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning villages). Sustainable community empowerment requires participation in development (Matridi et al., 2015). At this level, village development programs must match village conditions, money allocation, and government and local government engagement (Shin et al., 2022).

Second, another reason that strengthens the assumption that the implementation of SDGs in villages plays a strategic role is that Indonesian residents who live in rural areas are still faced with various socio-economic problems, where the two basic problems are unemployment and poverty (Guha & Chakrabarti, 2019; Mutiarani & Siswantoro, 2020). Masuda et al. (2022) argue that the problem faced by rural communities is the lack of optimal quality in public services organized by the government. On the other hand, at the same time, villages are the center of socio-economic activities for 81% of Indonesia's population and the main locus of development aimed at reducing unemployment, poverty, and inequality (Cahlikova & Mabillard, 2020).

Third, judging from the level of village progress in 2016, there were only 4.90% of developed villages, 0.24% of independent villages, and 98.87% in the developing, lagging, or very lagging stages of the 73,709 villages measured (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2022). This condition requires a special program, which is a village development program whose planning requires accurate data to determine the steps needed, along with the implementation of other development programs (Guha & Chakrabarti, 2019; Mutiarani & Siswantoro, 2020).

In this context, a village development acceleration program is scheduled that focuses on efforts to realize community empowerment through optimizing village potential and government intervention (Feng et al., 2019). The acceleration program is the IDM program, which, at the level of policy formulation, is aligned with the goals of the SDGs (Kapoor et al., 2021). The harmony of these two development programs is expected to support each other in the sense that the IDM and SDG programs can contribute to the effectiveness of each program (Hajratul et al., 2019).

The rapid development of technology gives birth to a need among development planners and implementers to always update data with effective governance (Kapoor et al., 2021). Among village development planners and implementers, actual

data on the level of village progress, containing indicators of village potential and weakness as well as the specific character of a village, becomes very important. The level of village progress in the IDM program is divided into five levels: very underdeveloped, underdeveloped, developed, and independent (Rantala et al., 2022). Each level has different qualifications and requires different types of development programs with appropriate budget allocations and government intervention (Matridi et al., 2015). In other words, convergence is needed between the governance of IDM programs and the development goals set out in the SDGs.

Departing from the background as described and based on the conception of accelerating development in realizing the 17 SDG indicators, the researcher assumes that the convergence of IDM governance, which presents portrait data on the condition of rural communities, is represented in the social resilience index, economic resilience index, and environmental resilience index, helping to achieve effective implementation of village development, including helping to accelerate the realization of SDGs (Kapoor et al., 2021).

Therefore, this study aims to analyze the convergence of the IDM governance in mapping village progress data to accelerate SDGs. Acceleration of SDGs requires data, including data on the development of village progress levels (Fitri et al., 2022). For this reason, data management through programs is carried out. The complexity of village databases that can show the level of village progress in linear indicators with SDG indicators requires convergence (Del Río Castro et al., 2021). Effective IDM measurement governance, namely, comprehensive data arrangement in one big data set that can be used as a basis for decision-making (Rabah, 2018).

The relevance of this research lies in its contribution to village development governance discourse by highlighting the strategic role of accurate data, targeted interventions, and governance integration in realizing the SDGs. Given that 89.81% of administrative units in the country are rural (Kusnandar, 2022) and that these areas face persistent poverty and limited access to public services, this study offers practical insights for enhancing village-level policy effectiveness.

Methodologically, this study adopts a qualitative descriptive approach using secondary data from the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration from 2016 to 2022. It analyzes how IDM indicators intersect with SDGs and identifies gaps and strengths in their convergence. The main findings indicate that IDM governance plays three strategic roles: 1) providing timely and structured development data; 2) guiding policy planning and budget allocation; 3) partially supporting specific SDGs, with notable gaps in SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 14 (life below water). This study contributes to the literature by demonstrating that convergence between governance systems and SDGs enhances implementation outcomes in rural contexts.

The rest of this paper is structured as follows. Section 2 reviews the relevant literature on convergence governance, village development, and SDGs. Section 3 outlines the research methodology and data sources. Section 4 presents the results of the analysis. Section 5 discusses the findings concerning theoretical and practical implications. Section 6 concludes the study and offers recommendations for policy and future research.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Sustainable Development Goals in Indonesia

Development priorities in Indonesia are directed towards achieving SDGs (Del Arco et al., 2021). On the other hand, Arfianto and Balahmar (2019) argue that development priorities include increasing economic growth, reducing inequality, and eradicating poverty. Two crucial SDGs that receive special attention yearly are reducing poverty and increasing employment opportunities to reduce unemployment and improve the community's welfare (Arfianto & Balahmar, 2019). Rumkel et al. (2019) recommend that development needs to be improved in effectiveness by increasing the availability of data for determining development planning and expanding the space for community participation.

There are several advantages to having accurate data available in the development planning process. There are also some benefits if the community is involved in development; firstly, development can run more according to community needs (Sebayang et al., 2019). This means that if the community is involved in development, there is more control over development. Secondly, community-oriented development creates more political stability (Liu & Yang, 2019). Development in this context is a series of activities to achieve changes from the current state to a better desired state (Bigerna & Micheli, 2025).

SDGs are a world development agenda that aims to realize human welfare globally, down to the village level (Biermann et al., 2022). This program involves all development actors, including the government, civil society, the business world, academics, and the media (Rantala et al., 2022). SDGs in Indonesia have a special formulation. The village SDGs are an integrated effort to realize villages without poverty and hunger, economic villages growing evenly, health care villages, environmental care villages, education care villages, women-friendly villages, networking villages, and cultural response villages to accelerate the achievement of SDGs (Astika & Sri Subawa, 2021).

According to Glass and Newig (2019), there are supporting and inhibiting factors for implementing sustainable development in villages. Supporting factors include the availability of natural and human resources, the certainty of the governing law or regulation, and a high level of community participation (Damayanti & Syarifuddin, 2020). In comparison, the inhibiting factors include a lack of insight into the importance of sustainable development, a lack of precise types of community participation, natural symptoms that hinder infrastructure development, a lack of data availability, and community pros and cons that hinder decision-making (Sebayang et al., 2019; van Niekerk, 2020).

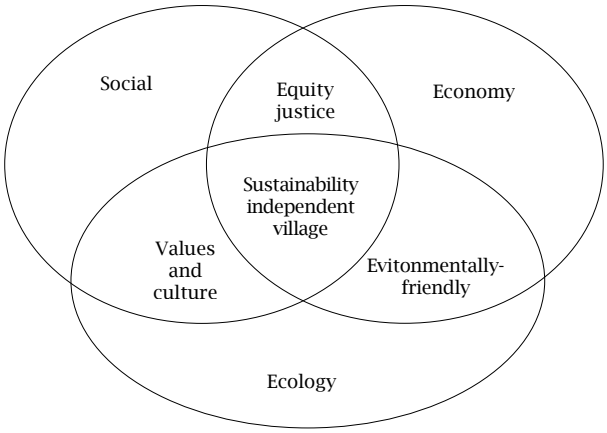
2.2. Development Village Index for supporting Sustainable Development Goals

The Ministry of Village, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia established the IDM program in October 2016 (Annahar et al., 2023). IDM is a reference for alleviating the number of very

underdeveloped villages and increasing the number of independent villages in Indonesia (Astika & Sri Subawa, 2021). IDM lays out community initiatives and strong capacities as the main basis for village progress and empowerment (Islahuddin, 2020). IDM uses an approach that relies on social, economic, and ecological forces without forgetting the power of politics, culture, history, and local wisdom. IDM was created to strengthen national long-term development and serve as a reference for affirmation, integration, and development synergy (Lubis et al., 2024).

IDM is prepared based on the assumption that development is an accumulation process of social, economic, and ecological dimensions (Permatasari et al., 2021). These three become mutually reinforcing links that can ensure the sustainability of development and the empowerment of rural communities (Guha & Chakrabarti, 2019; Mutiarani & Siswantoro, 2020). Village development is defined as a process to improve the capability of the population to manage and utilize the potential contained in the village (Kurniawan & Rauf, 2022).

Figure 1. Dimension of IDM



Source: Islahuddin (2020).

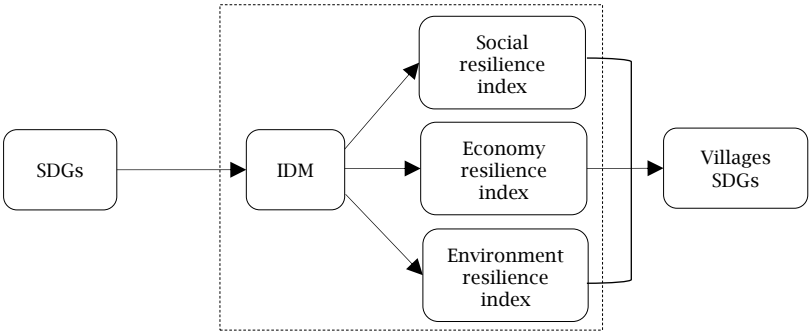
Figure 1 illustrates a development paradigm that prioritizes human development based on the social, economic, and ecological dimensions (Islahuddin, 2020) as put forward in the IDM program. In preparing IDM, these three dimensions are formed by several variables and indicators. Village Minister Regulation No. 2 of 2016 concerning IDM measures three populations' resilience, which is a portrait of the level of welfare of village communities and is reflected in the level of resilience of village communities. IDM is a composite index formed from the social, economic, and village ecological resilience indexes (Risyanto et al., 2022).

IDM uses an approach that relies on social, economic, and ecological forces without forgetting the potential of other locales (Prasetyo & Sonny, 2020). The hope is to create conditions for prosperous, just, and independent village communities (Damayanti & Syarifuddin, 2020). The existence of village development has not been able to bring Indonesia out of the problems of unemployment, poverty in the village, and social problems that arise among its citizens. The lack of data availability is one of the problems that complicates almost all development implementations (Sunggoro, 2019).

The availability of village data in the village development process is very important, especially in developing policy interventions that can appropriately answer the fundamental problems of community development and empowerment (Nasib et al., 2022; Prasetyo & Sonny, 2020). The IDM, which is designed to classify the level of village progress, is designed to answer the needs of village development planners and implementers (Astika & Sri Subawa, 2021).

The conceptual framework for this research is outlined in Figure 2. The implementation of the SDGs in Indonesia is supported by the IDM program, which consists of three indices, namely the social resilience index, the economic resilience index, and the environmental resilience index; in the hope that the IDM program will help accelerate the achievement of the village SDGs.

Figure 2. Conceptual framework



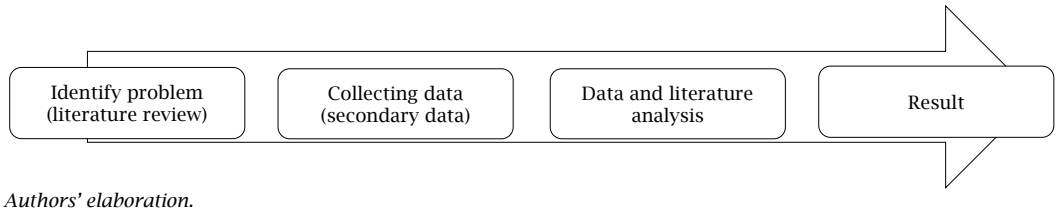
Source: Authors' elaboration.

3. METHODOLOGY

This research employs a qualitative descriptive design using secondary data from the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia. The study was conducted in 2023 and analyzed data from 2016 to 2022. An exploratory approach was applied to assess the implementation of the SDGs at the village level through the governance of the IDM Program.

The primary method used is a systematic literature review, allowing the researcher to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize relevant literature and government documents to understand the convergence between IDM governance and SDG achievement (Reeves et al., 2021). According to Rimapradesi and Fajrina (2021), a descriptive method is appropriate for solving problems by objectively describing the subject's condition, including village governance structures, institutional frameworks, and policy interventions. Data was collected through a literature study of previous academic works, policy reports, and official publications related to village development and SDGs.

Figure 3. Process analysis



Source: Authors' elaboration.

The analytical process followed a structured sequence, as illustrated in Figure 3. First, relevant literature on village development and SDG policy frameworks was reviewed. Second, SDG implementation practices were examined, particularly within Indonesia's rural governance context. Third, IDM data from the Ministry was interpreted using key indicators that reflect the village's positioning in SDG achievement. The final analysis involved synthesizing findings and verifying conclusions within a convergence governance framework.

While this study emphasizes literature-based and secondary data analysis, alternative research methods could complement or extend the findings. For instance, a mixed-methods approach that combines qualitative interviews with local government officials and quantitative surveys of village residents could offer deeper insights into on-the-ground implementation. Likewise, a comparative case study method could analyze best practices across regions or countries implementing similar SDG-aligned village development frameworks.

This study is limited by its reliance on secondary data and the absence of field-based validation. However, it provides a comprehensive baseline for understanding the role of IDM governance in accelerating SDGs and informs future empirical investigations.

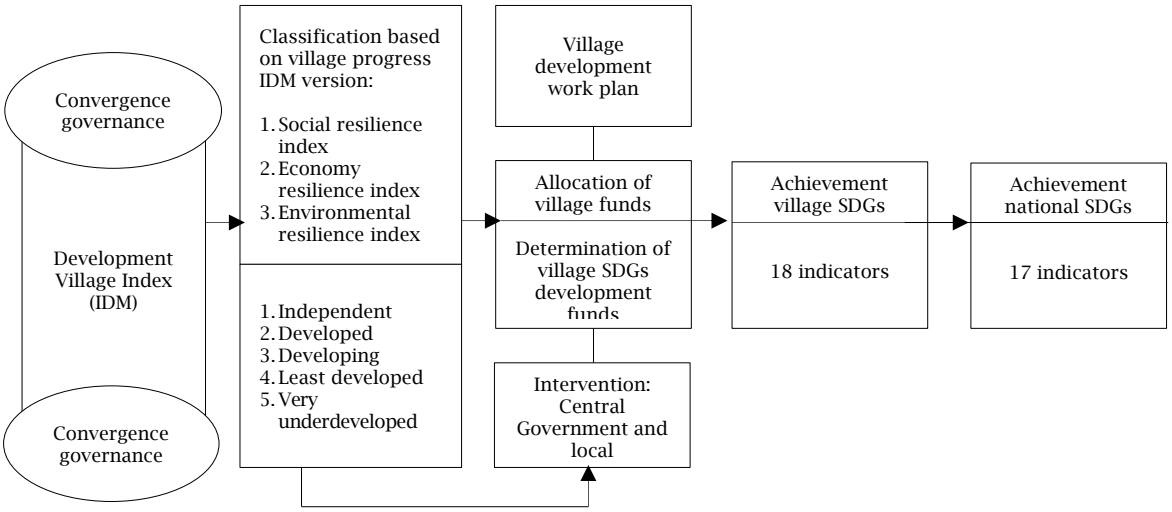
4. RESULTS

The convergence theory of rural development includes components such as communication, negotiation mechanisms, and change approaches. The fundamental part is the clarity of direction in communicating to achieve a common goal (Li et al., 2022; Lin et al., 2022), which results in consociation for collective entrepreneurship and generates convergence for the community to form a grand coalition toward social change (Burlamaqui & Kattel, 2014). Adopting a rural community approach with democratic principles can accomplish rural development, emphasizing flexibility, inclusion, and localism (Piper, 2017). Ultimately, this will bring justice, equality, and democracy to the countryside to transform faster.

The global SDG agenda includes the realization of 17 development indicators. The urgency of the global SDGs is to end poverty, reduce inequality, and protect the environment (Mukhtar et al., 2018). The Indonesian government's rapid response to global SDGs is outlined in Presidential Regulation No. 59 of 2017 concerning the Implementation of the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (2017). There is a tendency for SDGs in some countries to be achieved through village development, assuming that village development is one of the instruments to achieve SDGs (Le et al., 2020). IDM governance convergence is one of the most effective village development tools, which may accelerate SDG accomplishment. Most regional governments employ SDG indicators as a program sub-theme in the village government work plan and to evaluate village development key performance indicators (Gatto & Sadik-Zada, 2022; Odagiri et al., 2020; Watson et al., 2021).

Figure 4 shows that IDM measures village progress using three indicators aligned with the 17 SDGs, resulting in five classification levels. These classifications guide the Village Development Plan, fund allocation, and intervention strategies. By optimizing village resources, the IDM database supports the achievement of 18 village-level SDG targets and contributes to national SDG goals. Based on the analysis (2016–2022), the framework in Figure 3 has served as a key strategy in accelerating SDG implementation. Therefore, understanding IDM indicators and their link to SDG acceleration is detailed in Table 1 below.

Figure 4. Role of IDM governance coordination in accelerating SDGs



Source: Authors' elaboration based on Presidential Regulation No. 59 of 2017 concerning the Implementation of the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

Table 1. Convergence of IDM indicators and SDGs (Part 1)

No.	*Resistance in IDM*	*Dimensions and sub-dimensions IDM*			*Indicators of dimension IDM*		*SDGs*
1	Social resilience	1. Health	1	Service health	1	Travel time to health infrastructure < 30 minutes.	3
					2	Midwives available	3
					3	Doctor's health worker available.	3
					4	Other health workers available.	3
			2	Empowerment society for health	5	Access to village health posts (*poskesdes*), village clinics (*polindes*), and integrated service posts (*posyandu*).	3
					6	Integrated service posts (*posyandu*) activity level.	3
			3	Health insurance	7	Social Security Administration Agency (BPJS) membership rate.	3
		2. Education	4	Access to primary and secondary education	8	Access to elementary school < 3 km.	4
					9	Access to junior high school < 6 km.	4
					10	Access to senior high school < 6 km.	4
			5	Access to non-formal education	11	Literacy eradication activities.	4
					12	Playgroup activity.	4
					13	Community learning center training activities.	4
					14	Access to skills/course centers.	4, 8
			6	Access to knowledge	15	Community reading garden or village library.	4
		3. Social capital	7	Have social solidarity	16	The habit of mutual aid in the village.	3, 16
					17	The existence of public spaces open to residents who are not paid.	3, 15, 16
					18	Availability of sports facilities or fields.	3, 16
					19	There are groups of sports activities.	3, 16
			8	Have tolerance	20	The villagers consist of several tribes or ethnicities.	16
					21	The villagers communicate daily using different languages.	16
					22	There is religious diversity in the village.	16
			9	Residents' sense of security	23	Villagers build a neighborhood security post for maintenance.	16
					24	Citizen participation held a security guard schedule.	16
					25	The level of crime that occurs in the village.	16
					26	The level of conflict that occurs in the village.	16
					27	Efforts to resolve conflicts that occur in the village.	16
					28	There is access to the special school.	4
			10	Welfare	29	There are social welfare persons (street children, commercial sex workers, and beggars).	1, 2, 3
					30	There are people who commit suicide.	3
		4. Settlements	11	Access to clean water and drinking water	31	Most villagers have a proper source of drinking water.	3, 6
					32	Access villagers have water for bathing and washing.	3, 6, 15
			12	Access to sanitation	33	Most villagers have latrines.	6
					34	There is a garbage dump.	6, 11, 12, 15
			13	Access to electricity	35	The number of families that already have electricity.	7
			14	Access to information and communication	36	The villagers have cell phones and strong signals.	17
					37	There are local, national, and foreign television broadcasts.	4, 17
					38	Internet access available.	4, 17

Table 1. Convergence of IDM indicators and SDGs (Part 2)

No.	*Resistance in IDM*	*Dimensions and sub-dimensions IDM*			*Indicators of dimension IDM*		*SDGs*
2	Economic resilience	5. Economy	15	Diversity of village community production	39	There is more than one type of economic activity of the population.	1, 2, 8, 10
			16	Trade service center available	40	Residents' access to trade centers (shops, permanent and semi-permanent markets).	1, 2, 8, 10
					41	There is a trade sector in settlements (stalls and minimarkets).	1, 2, 8, 10
					42	There are food stalls, restaurants, hotels, and inns.	1, 2, 8, 10
			17	Access to distribution/ logistics	43	There is a post office and logistics services.	9, 17
			18	Access to financial and credit institutions	44	Availability of public banking institutions (government and private).	8, 9
					45	Availability of rural banks (*bank perkreditan rakyat*) (BPR).	8, 9
					46	Residents' access to credit.	8, 9
			19	Institutions	47	Availability of people's economic institutions (cooperatives).	8, 9
			20	Openness	48	There are modes of public transportation (public transport, regular routes, and public transport operating hours).	9
					49	Roads that can be traveled by four-wheeled or more motorized vehicles (all year round, except rainy season, except certain times).	9
					50	Quality of village road (the widest road in the village with asphalt, gravel, and soil).	9
3	Ecological resilience	6. Ecology	21	Environmental quality	51	The presence or absence of groundwater and air pollution.	13
					52	There are rivers affected by sewage.	11, 12

Source: Authors' elaboration based on IDM indicators and SDGs.

Table 1 shows the alignment between IDM and SDG indicators. The social resilience index comprises four dimensions, 19 sub-dimensions, and 38 indicators linked to SDGs: 2–4, 6–8, 11, 14–17. The economic resilience index includes one dimension with 12 indicators tied to SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, and SDG 17. The environmental resilience index consists of 1 dimension and two indicators aligned with SDG 11 and SDG 12.

Table 2. Recapitulation of the linkage of IDM indicators and SDGs

No.	*SDGs*	*Number of related IDM indicators*	*%*
1	A country without poverty	4	4.60
2	A country without hunger	4	4.60
3	Healthy and prosperous life	14	16.90
4	Quality education	16	18.39
5	Gender equality		
6	Clean water and proper sanitation	4	4.60
7	Clean and affordable energy	1	1.15
8	Decent work and economic growth	9	10.34
9	Industry, economy, and infrastructure	8	9.20
10	Reduced inequality	4	4.60
11	Sustainable cities and settlements	1	1.15
12	Responsible consumption and production	3	3.45
13	Climate change management		
14	Marine ecosystems		
15	Terrestrial ecosystems	3	3.45
16	Peace, justice, and resilient institutions	12	13.79
17	Partnership to achieve goals	4	4.60
	Total	**87**	**100.00**

Source: Authors' elaboration based on IDM variable analysis and SDGs.

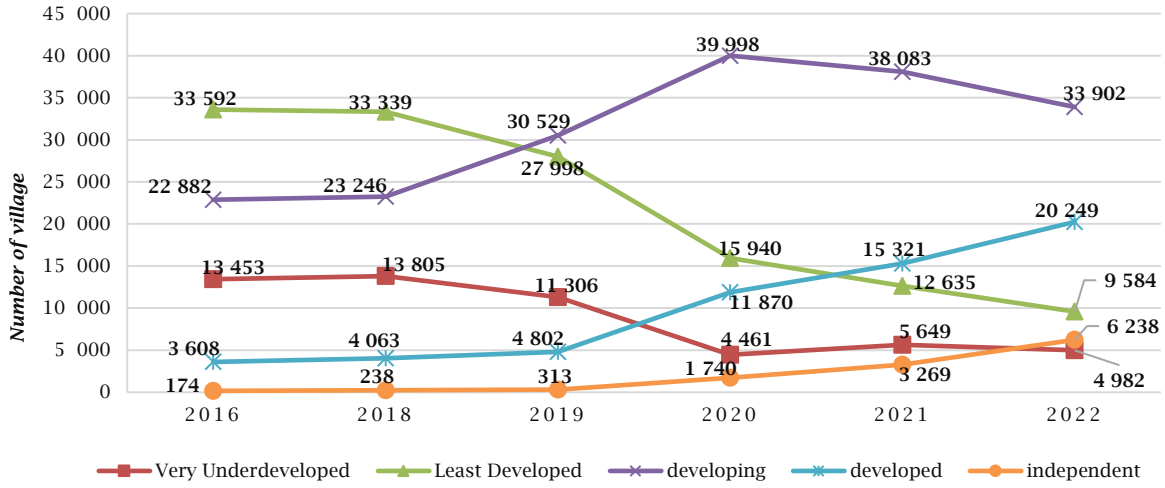
As shown in Table 2, 52 IDM indicators are directly linked to 14 of the 17 SDGs, indicating that SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 14 (marine economy) lack direct convergence. The most substantial alignment is with SDG 4 (education, 18.39%), SDG 3 (health, 16.90%), SDG 16 (justice and institutions, 13.79%), SDG 8 (decent work, 10.34%), and SDG 9 (industry and infrastructure, 9.20%). From 2016 to 2022, IDM has served as a key tool for measuring village progress, with its 52 indicators covering social, economic, and environmental resilience, strongly supporting SDG implementation. However, the absence of convergence with the three SDGs highlights areas requiring policy and indicator enhancement.

The implications of SDG goals: 1) IDM s inability to accelerate gender mainstreaming in villages tarnishes the world movement on women and development (Del Arco et al., 2021); 2) IDM s inability to respond to the phenomenon of climate

change and disaster management; 3) IDM is not compatible with accelerating SDGs in coastal areas or islands rich in marine areas areas (Kurniawan & Rauf, 2022; Zaman et al., 2021). These three things can be reasons for village and regional governments to adapt IDM implementation to the local conditions of their respective regions (Hajratul et al., 2019). Even in some instances, it is necessary to determine village clusters that do not have to refer entirely to IDM indicator signs.

The dynamics of village and village community conditions can be seen from the movement of interests and the correlation between the roles of village actors and their interests and influences. This shows that the condition of villages and communities is the main subject in village development planning in today's digital era. As a recommendation, villages must respond to changing times by planning and implementing a planning system with the concept of digitalization systematically and practically. Figure 5 illustrates the development data of the village progress rate in 2016–2022, grouped by each village progress level, which shows that from 2016 to 2022, there is a trend of increasing the number of villages in the developing level, advanced level, and independent level. At the same time, there is a decline in the number of villages at a rate of being underdeveloped and underdeveloped.

Figure 5. Village progress level (2016–2022)



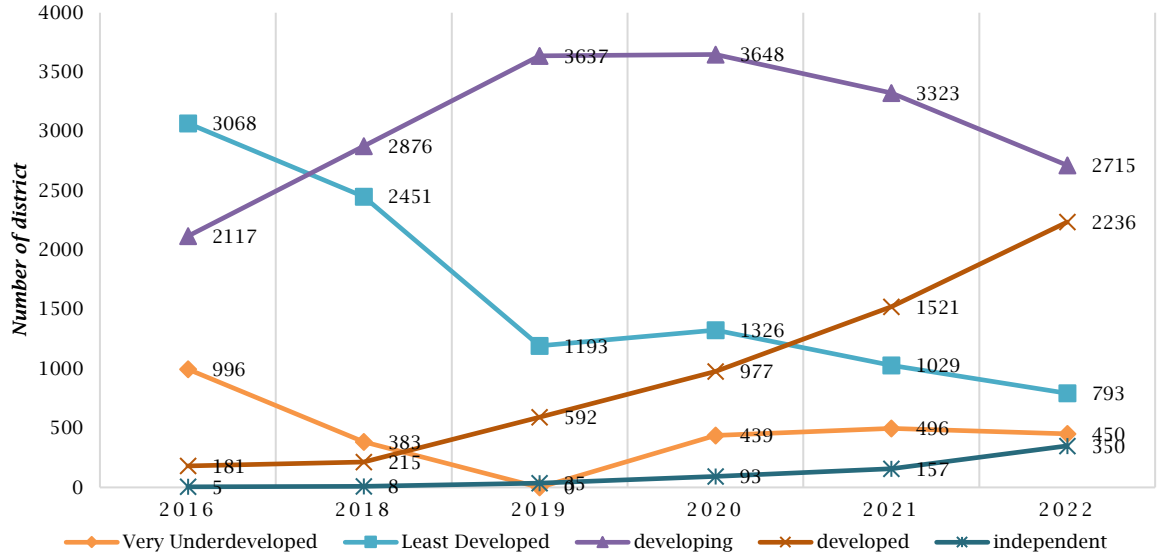
Source: Kementrian Desa PDTT (2022).

Five important points can be known from the data in Figure 5. First, the number of independent villages at the beginning of IDM implementation was only 174 villages, increasing to 6,238 in 2022, an increase equivalent to 3,485% within six years (Kurniawan & Rauf, 2022). This figure exceeds the target stated in the 2019–2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN), which is 5,000 villages with independent status (Oktaviana & Darma, 2022). Secondly, the number of developed villages initially numbered 3,608 in 2016, gradually increasing to 20,249 in 2022, equivalent to 461%. Third, the number of developing villages increased from 22,882 in 2016 to 33,902 in 2022, equivalent to 48%. Fourth, disadvantaged villages decreased from 33,592 in 2016 to 9,584 in 2022, a decrease equivalent to 71%. Fifth, severely disadvantaged villages decreased from 13,453 in 2016 to 4,982 in 2022, a decrease of 63% (Kementrian Desa PDTT, 2022).

In 2016–2022, villages with developing categories increased rapidly, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. This phenomenon is caused by the high number of underdeveloped villages in 2016–2019, and the requirements for developing villages were relatively accessible (Arfianto & Balahmar, 2019). The tendency to be motivated to get village fund allocation (ADD) when a village is at a developing level is also why a village feels comfortable being at that level (Nasib et al., 2022; Prasetyo & Sonny, 2020).

The village has the lowest level of government in coordination with the head of the sub-district area. Hence, changes in the level of village progress automatically have implications for changes in the level of progress of the sub-district. Through the same calculation as changes in village progress rates, changes in the level of sub-district progress from 2016 to 2022 also occurred, namely an increase in the number of independent sub-districts from the original five sub-districts in 2016 to 350 in 2022 (6,6%), can be seen in Figure 6.

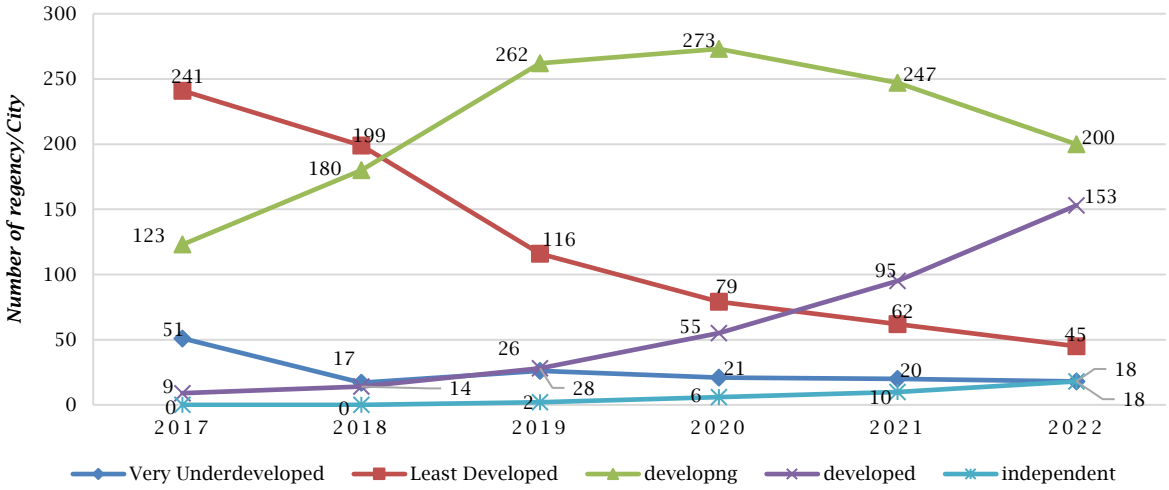
Figure 6. Development of the level of progress of the districts in 2016–2022



Source: Kementrian Desa PDTT (2022).

Figures 5 and 6 show that the level of village progress is not always linear with the level of progress in the sub-district. Hajratul et al. (2019) state that village progress is uneven in all sub-districts. On the other hand, certain sub-districts have a high proportion of villages for certain types of progress, while there are sub-districts with a low proportion for certain levels of progress (Prasetyo & Sonny, 2020).

Figure 7. Development of the level of progress of districts/municipalities in 2016–2022



Source: Kementrian Desa PDTT (2022).

Figure 7 shows the proportion of the level of progress of districts and cities in 2016. Out of 430 districts and cities measured, no single district or city is included in the independent category; there are 2% in the advanced category, 28% in the developing category, 56% lagging, and a very lagging 11%. This means that the majority of districts and cities in 2016 are in a lagging condition (Hajratul et al., 2019). As for the condition six years later, namely in 2022, of the 434 districts and cities measured, 4% are independent, 35% are advanced, 46% are developing, 15% are lagging, and 4% are very lagging (Kementrian Desa PDTT, 2022). This data shows that increasing population capabilities to manage and utilize potential has meaning (Prasetyo & Sonny, 2020).

In 2016, three provinces did not meet the criteria to be classified as independent and advanced provinces. Among these, 21% were categorized as developing provinces, 69% as trailing provinces, and 9% as highly undeveloped provinces. In 2022, after six years, one province (3%) has achieved independence, while 36% of the provinces have reached a developed status, 51% are in the development process, 6% are classified as least developed, and 3% are considered highly underdeveloped. Developed provinces experienced a substantial growth in their percentage, rising from 0% to 36%. Similarly, the proportion of developing provinces also saw a significant rise, climbing from 21% to 51% (Kementrian Desa PDTT, 2022).

The IDM program converges on most of the SDGs while also helping to provide up-to-date data on village development with all its characteristics. This is a supporting factor for the Village Government to compile relevant village development plans to improve their villages' progress rating. This has implications for the significant allocation of village funds and the accuracy of government intervention in villages. Ultimately, the IDM program contributes to the achievement of the SDGs.

5. DISCUSSION

The findings of this study underscore the strategic role of the IDM governance in accelerating SDGs at the village level in Indonesia. The IDM's function in classifying village progress through social, economic, and environmental resilience indices has contributed significantly to policy formulation, development planning, and targeted government interventions. Between 2016 and 2022, the substantial increase in independent and developed villages reflects the effectiveness of IDM as a development tool that enhances administrative coordination and resource allocation.

Based on the interpretation of the data in Table 1, Figure 4, Figure 5, and Figure 6, as well as the data described in the explanation above, an aggregate analysis can be carried out to show that the level of progress of villages, sub-districts, districts, cities, and provinces measured through the IDM level shows that the conditions of progress together and mutually strengthen for the sustainability of development and empowerment of rural communities (Guha & Chakrabarti, 2019; Mutiarani & Siswantoro, 2020). This indicates that together there has been an increase in three resilience indices, namely, the social resilience index, the economic resilience index, and the environmental resilience index (Astika & Sri Subawa, 2021). Suppose the IDM indicator is aggressively drawn into convergence with the SDGs indicator. In that case, the increase in IDM indicates an improvement in the condition of progress in villages, sub-districts, districts, cities, and provinces, which also means an increase in conditions that show the acceleration of national SDGs in the 2016–2022 period (Prasetyo & Sonny, 2020).

Rumkel et al. (2019) argue that village development needs to be improved in effectiveness by increasing the availability of accurate data as a basis for determining development planning; it also needs to expand the space for community participation. According to Astika and Sri Subawa (2021), IDM is a reference for alleviating the number of very underdeveloped villages and increasing the number of independent villages in Indonesia. IDM can use community initiatives and strong capacity as the primary basis for the village's progress and empowerment (Islahuddin, 2020).

Moreover, although the IDM program supports village progress in the aggregate, Masuda et al. (2022) remind us that real progress toward SDGs requires local governments to act as intermediaries, facilitating partnerships and contextualizing programs. This perspective complements our finding that IDM governance should measure resilience and catalyze collaboration and inclusivity in decision-making. In conclusion, while the IDM governance structure demonstrates significant alignment with 14 of the 17 SDG goals, the absence of convergence in specific goals highlights an opportunity for methodological refinement. Future research should integrate field-level validation, participatory development diagnostics, and real-time monitoring systems to ensure IDM becomes an administrative tool and a genuinely transformative framework for sustainable rural development.

6. CONCLUSION

This study has demonstrated that the convergence of the IDM governance, represented through the social, economic, and environmental resilience indices, plays a strategic role in accelerating the achievement of SDGs in rural areas. Three key contributions of IDM governance were identified: 1) the provision of timely and structured village-level data to support targeted development planning and budgeting; 2) the improvement of village development effectiveness, as reflected in the substantial increase of advanced and independent villages from 2016 to 2022; 3) the positive influence of IDM as a motivational tool for local governments to design development programs aligned with SDG targets.

Despite these contributions, the study also found that IDM governance does not yet fully accommodate several SDGs, namely, SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 14 (life below water). This indicates the need for contextual adaptation and the development of complementary instruments or localized IDM modifications to reflect regional ecological and socio-cultural specificities.

The implications of this study are significant for both policymakers and researchers. For practitioners, IDM provides a powerful framework for aligning village development interventions with broader national and global SDGs. For researchers, this study offers a foundation to explore further the causal relationship between IDM-based classification and the actual progress of SDG indicators at micro-regional levels. Future research is needed to conduct empirical, field-based case studies in various village clusters, explore adaptive IDM frameworks that address local uniqueness, and examine the integration of gender, climate, and marine issues within the village development agenda. Such research will contribute to refining policy tools that ensure inclusive and sustainable development for all village typologies.

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