

Self-sufficient Villages: A Systematic Literature Review

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Abstract. Self-sufficient villages aim to achieve social, economic, and environmental dimensions. This research aims to examine the definition, conceptual, and indicators. The research method uses SLR by identifying and synthesizing articles from the Scopus and Web of Science databases, then coding with NVivo. The results show that independent villages are communities that are able to meet their basic needs independently. Meanwhile, the concept adopts the SEP, with principles of moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity, with indicators covering economic, social, and environmental aspects. The research findings confirm the need for a holistic and multidimensional approach to the development of independent villages. The implication is to design integrated and contextual village development policies and programs by considering the diversity of local potentials and community aspirations. This research contributes as a reference for the planning and evaluation of village self-sufficiency programs.

Keywords: Self Sufficiency Villages; Economics, Social, and Environment.

1 Introduction

Self-sufficient villages is a village development concept that aims to achieve economic, social, and environmental self-sufficiency through the utilization of local potential and community empowerment [1], [2], [3]. This concept is in line with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) developed by King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, which emphasizes the principles of moderation, rationality, immunity, knowledge, and morality [4], [5], [6]. The application of the concept of self-sufficient villages is expected to improve the welfare of village communities and reduce dependence on outsiders [7].

However, in practice, the development of self-sufficient villages often faces various problems, such as lack of capital, poor infrastructure, conflicts between residents, and low human resource capacity [1], [2], [8]. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has also had an impact on the village economy, where many farmers and small business actors have experienced a decrease in income and difficulty meeting basic needs [9], [10]. This shows that self-sufficient villages are not fully able to face external shocks and maintain their sustainability.

Various studies, such as those by Korphaibool et al., have examined the concept of self-sufficient villages and its application in village development.[11] examined the relationship between SEP practices and the specific risks of companies in Thailand, while Suttipun and Arwae [12] analyzed the influence of SEP practices on the performance of small and medium-sized enterprises in Thailand. However, there are still few studies that comprehensively examine the standard definition, conceptual framework, and indicators.

Therefore, there is a research gap related to the application of the concept of self-sufficient villages in the context of village government in Indonesia. This study aims to answer the following questions: 1) What is the definition and conceptual framework of self-sufficient villages?; and 2) What are the indicators of self-sufficient villages? The purpose of this research

is to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the concept of self-sufficient villages and their application in village development in the world especially in Indonesia. The results of this study are expected to provide theoretical implications for the development of the concept of self-sufficient villages and practical implications for the formulation of more effective and sustainable village development policies.

2 Literature Review

The concept of “self-sufficiency” is defined as a community that is able to meet its basic needs of self-resilience without being too dependent on outsiders [1], [8], [13]. This concept emphasizes the ability of communities/villages to manage their resources effectively and efficiently so as to ensure the welfare of their citizens in the long term [3], [14]. Self-sufficiency is expected to have resistance to external shocks, both in terms of economic, social, and environmental [11], [15]. Thus, the concept of self-sufficiency in a village is in line with the principles of sustainable development, which is currently on the global agenda [2], [16].

The conceptual framework of self-sufficiency can be seen from the perspective of economic philosophy developed by King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, namely the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) [4], [5], [17]. SEP emphasizes three main elements, namely moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity, which are supported by two conditions, namely knowledge and morality, which lead to sustainability with social, economic, and environmental indicators [6], [18], [19]. Moderation means avoiding excessive behavior and finding a middle ground in every action. Rationality refers to a thorough evaluation of actions and their consequences. Immunity is related to the ability to deal with unexpected shocks and have resilience. Knowledge and morality are the foundation for these three elements in achieving sustainability [9], [12], [20].

Referring to the SEP concept above, the village self-sufficiency indicator can be seen from various aspects, such as economic, social, and environmental [10], [21]. In terms of economy, relevant indicators include the level of per capita income, the ratio of dependence on external aid, the level of diversification of the local economy, and access to capital and markets [7], [22]. From a social perspective, indicators that can be used include the level of citizen participation in decision-making, social cohesion, the availability of basic services such as education and health, and the preservation of local culture [1], [14]. In terms of the environment, important indicators include the level of food, water, and energy independence, sustainable natural resource management practices, and resilience to natural disasters [2], [13]. These indicators need to be adapted to the local context of each village and measured periodically to monitor progress towards self-sufficiency [4], [8].

3 Conceptual Framework

The systematic literature review (SLR) on self-sufficient villages is carried out by following systematic and structured steps. First, clear and specific research questions are defined as a guide in the literature search and selection process [23], [24]. The article identification process is carried out using the Scopus and Web of Science databases. The keywords used to search for articles in Scopus are [TITLE-ABS-KEY] [(“Self Sufficiency” OR “self-reliance” OR “sufficiency economy”) AND (“Village” OR “Villages” OR “sufficiency economy philosophy”)] get 4763 articles, then restrictions are placed on articles published between 2019-2024 and United Kingdom articles, then 101 articles are selected. Furthermore, 20 articles were grouped according to the theme, and 12 articles could be downloaded in full paper, which was

then analyzed. Meanwhile, the keywords used to search for articles on the Web of Science are [(“Self Sufficiency” OR “self-reliance” OR “sufficiency economy”) AND (“Village” OR “Villages” OR “sufficiency economy philosophy”)]. 107 articles were obtained and selected according to the theme of 20 articles, and 12 articles were downloaded for analysis.

Data extraction was carried out on articles that passed the quality assignment selection using NVivo software. Each article is coded in NVivo and grouped based on the focus of the research, namely definitions, conceptual frameworks, and indicators of relative village self-reliance. The coding results in each focus are grouped based on similar meanings, and these groups become sub-codes of each focus. NVivo is widely used for coding and qualitative analysis in SLRs to ensure systematic and reproducible results [25], [26], [27]. The use of NVivo in SLRs helps maintain the reliability and validity of the research process by providing a structured approach to data extraction and analysis [25], [26], [27].

3.1 Empirical Study of Self-Sufficiency Village

Defining Self-sufficient Villages

Self-sufficiency is the ability to rely on oneself or a person’s capabilities to meet their personal needs [1]. Self-sufficiency is an essential principle in community development because it aims to increase people’s sense of ownership, gradually improve the living conditions of rural communities, and strengthen communities [1]. SEP has proven to be the best practical concept to help a country survive poverty and sustain economic growth [2]. SEP provides practical and conceptual procedures to protect one’s lifestyle from poverty and steadily achieve a state of self-reliance [2]. The core process of SEP includes methods of moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity [20]. The output of a well-managed system leads to happiness in society [20]. Energy independence, which is seen as the ability of an energy system to run autonomously from the grid, brings benefits to consumers and power systems [13]. Similarly, ecovillages do not seek to be completely self-sufficient but rather aim to achieve a decent level of self-sufficiency complemented by local and regional cooperation [14].

Based on several definitions of self-sufficiency that have been outlined earlier, it can be concluded that the right definition for a “self-sufficiency village” is a community or village that can meet most of its basic needs independently by utilizing local resources owned, both in economic, social, and environmental aspects, governance and being able to manage risks and challenges that may be faced. self-sufficiency village strives to achieve an optimal level of self-reliance by continuing to collaborate with other communities at the local and regional levels. The goal is to improve the welfare of village communities sustainably, strengthen resilience to external shocks, and preserve the environment.

Conceptualizing Self-sufficient Villages

Based on the results of the article review that meets the criteria, a relevant concept of self-sufficiency can be adopted as the concept of self-sufficient villages. See Table 1.

First, moderation is one of the main principles in the SEP. Simplicity refers to an attitude of not exaggerating, both in production and consumption, as well as avoiding actions that harm oneself and others [16]. Second, reasonableness is the second principle in SEP, which refers to logical decision-making that considers the expected consequences of the action [16]. This

principle emphasizes the importance of critical thinking in understanding the cause and effect of something that leads to sufficiency [17].

Table 1. Conceptual Self-Sufficiency

Conceptualizing Self-Sufficiency	Supporting Resources
Moderation	Jitsuchon (2019); Kantabutra (2020); Korphaibool et al. (2021); Mettathamrong et al. (2023); Prabripu & Wiboonpongse (2020); Putsom & Wongkoey (2022); Silpcharu & Thaisom (2020); Suttipun (2019); Suttipun & Arwae (2020); von Feigenblatt et al. (2022); Wongkumchai et al. (2020)
Reasonableness	Jitsuchon (2019); Kantabutra & Punnakitikashem (2020); Prabripu & Wiboonpongse (2020); Putsom & Wongkoey (2022); Silpcharu & Thaisom (2020); Song (2020); Suttipun (2019); Suttipun & Arwae (2020); von Feigenblatt et al. (2022); Wongkumchai et al. (2020)
Self-immunity	Charoenwisal & Dhammasaccakarn (2023); Jitsuchon (2019); Kantabutra & Punnakitikashem (2020); Korphaibool et al. (2021); Prabripu & Wiboonpongse (2020); Putsom & Wongkoey (2022); Silpcharu & Thaisom (2020); Song (2020); Suttipun (2019); Suttipun & Arwae (2020); von Feigenblatt et al. (2022); Wongkumchai et al. (2020)
Knowledge	Jitsuchon (2019); Kantabutra & Punnakitikashem (2020); Putsom & Wongkoey (2022); Silpcharu & Thaisom (2020); Suttipun & Arwae (2020); von Feigenblatt et al. (2022)
Morality/Virtue	Hutagalung et al. (2022); Jitsuchon (2019); Kantabutra (2019); Kantabutra & Punnakitikashem (2020); Mettathamrong et al. (2023); Putsom & Wongkoey (2022); Silpcharu & Thaisom (2020); Suttipun & Arwae (2020); von Feigenblatt et al. (2022)
Sustainability	Hutagalung et al. (2022); Jenjarrussakul & Senasu (2022); Kantabutra & Punnakitikashem (2020); Suttipun & Arwae (2020)

Self-immunity is the third principle in SEP, which refers to the ability of individuals and organizations to protect themselves from external disturbances and shocks [15]. This principle encourages local communities and individuals to respond appropriately to external shocks and quickly return to the pre-disruption state [21]. Fourth, knowledge is one of the conditions underlying the implementation of SEP that must be constantly sought and applied by individuals in living their lives or adapted to the local context when implementing development projects [4].

Fifth, morality/virtue is the second condition that underlies the implementation of SEP, including awareness of virtue, honesty, patience, perseverance, and the use of wisdom in life [9]. Sixth, Sustainability is the main goal of implementing SEP, which refers to the ability to meet current needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their needs [12]. The proper implementation of SEP can lead to happiness in society [20]. In the context of business, adopting SEPs leads to cultural, social, environmental, and economic outputs [6].

Village Self-Sufficiency Indicator

Referring to the article review results that meet the criteria, there are relevant self-sufficiency indicators to measure the performance of the self-sufficient village, see Table 2.

Table 2. Village Self-Sufficiency Indicator

Indicator	Supporting Resources
Financial and economic self-sufficiency	Charoenwisal & Dhammasaccakarn (2023); Hutagalung et al. (2022); Jeerat et al. (2023); Korphaibool et al. (2021); Reis et al. (2021); Skrzypczyński (2021); Voznyak et al. (2022)
Food security and sustainable agriculture	Jeerat et al. (2023); Kantabutra (2019); Prabripu & Wiboonpongse (2020); Skrzypczyński (2021)
Preservation of local wisdom and cultural heritage	Hutagalung et al. (2022); Mettathamrong et al. (2023); Silpcharu & Thaisom (2020); Smith (2021)
Human resource development and social capital	Hutagalung et al. (2022); Kantabutra (2019); Kantabutra & Punnakitikashem (2020); Silpcharu & Thaisom (2020); Suttipun (2019)
Good governance and transparency	Jenjarrussakul & Senasu (2022); Silpcharu & Thaisom (2020); Suttipun (2019)
Resistance to external shocks	Jeerat et al. (2023); Kantabutra (2019); Silpcharu & Thaisom (2020); Song (2020); Suttipun (2019)
Fulfillment of basic needs (water, energy, housing)	Reis et al. (2021); Skrzypczyński (2021); Voznyak et al. (2022)
Innovation and development of appropriate technology	Kantabutra (2019); Kantabutra & Punnakitikashem (2020); Pola (2022); Skrzypczyński (2021); Suttipun (2019)
Environmental sustainability and natural resource management	Pola (2022); Skrzypczyński (2021); Suttipun (2019)
Psychological self-sufficiency and happiness of citizens	Hutagalung et al. (2022); Jitsuchon (2019); Smith (2021); Wongkumchai et al. (2020)

Financial and economic self-sufficiency is an important indicator in realizing a self-sufficiency village. This includes the ability of villages to manage financial resources effectively, reduce dependence on external assistance, and create economic opportunities for communities [1], [21]. Jeerat et al. (2023)[2] emphasized the importance of an appropriate debt-to-equity ratio and internal capital management to ensure long-term independence. In addition, diversification of products, markets, and investments also plays a role in increasing village economic resilience [11], [13]. Also, underline the important role of financial independence in sustainable village development [8], [14].

Food security and sustainable agriculture are key factors in realizing self-sufficient villages. Jeerat et al. [2] emphasized the importance of applying sustainable agricultural principles, such as crop diversification, good soil management, and the use of appropriate technology. Kantabutra [5] and Prabripu & Wiboonpongse[17] also highlight the important role

of agriculture in maintaining food independence and improving the welfare of village communities. Conventional agricultural practices, such as planting, composting, and soil regeneration techniques, are still widely used in self-sustaining villages [14].

The preservation of local wisdom and cultural heritage is an important element in maintaining the identity and uniqueness of the self-sufficiency village. Hutagalung et al. [1] emphasized that village communities feel proud to have identities and traditions that have been preserved to this day. Mettathamrong et al. [3] also highlighted the importance of preserving local wisdom through training courses as one of the indicators of the success of self-sufficient villages. Silpcharu & Thaisom [10] added that the preservation of cultural heritage related to agriculture is one of the important abilities that must be possessed by village communities. Smith [7] also emphasized the important role of customary lands in maintaining the independence and cultural identity of village communities.

The development of human resources and social capital is an important factor in building a strong and sustainable self-sufficiency village. Hutagalung et al. [1] emphasized the importance of friendly attitudes and the habit of greeting each other between villagers and visitors, which reflects the understanding and application of hospitality attitudes. Kantabutra [5] and Kantabutra & Punnakitikashem [6] also highlight the important role of employee development and promotion from within to ensure business sustainability and village development. Suttipun [12] also emphasized the importance of training, skill development, and human capital retention in building a self-sufficiency village.

Good governance and transparency are important foundations in building a self-sufficiency village that is accountable and trusted by the community. Jenjarrussakul & Senasu [20] emphasizes the importance of strategic planning, effective communication, and employee participation in good organizational governance. Also highlighted the important role of transparent management with clear policies, measures, and monitoring systems, as well as information disclosure [10].

Resilience to external shocks is an important ability that must be possessed by self-sufficient villages in facing various challenges and changes. Jeerat et al. [2] emphasized the importance of preparedness in dealing with problems that may occur in the future as one of the indicators of village resilience. Kantabutra [5] and Silpcharu & Thaisom [10] also highlight the important role of risk management, product and market diversification, and good supply chain management in improving village resilience. Song [15] adds that resilience involves the ability to identify external changes and threats while protecting core functions and addressing disruptions quickly.

The fulfillment of basic needs such as water, energy, and housing is an important indicator in realizing a prosperous self-sufficiency village. Reis et al. [13] emphasized the importance of energy independence, which is understood as the ability of an energy system to operate autonomously from the power grid, in providing benefits to consumers and power systems. Skrzypczyński [14] also highlights the use of effective and affordable methods, such as photovoltaic panels, solar heat collectors, and biomass, in the provision of energy in self-contained villages. Voznyak et al. [8] added that spending on housing per capita is also an important indicator in assessing a village's financial independence.

Innovation and development of appropriate technology play an important role in building an adaptive and sustainable self-sufficiency village. Innovation in self-sufficiency villages is often based on strong expertise in utilizing the basic materials and resources available, as well as local wisdom [5]. The importance of developing manufacturing technology or services that are inexpensive but effective, with a focus on the use of local wisdom [6]. For example, innovations in water management, such as wells, underground tunnels, aqueducts, and

reservoirs, allow villages to adapt to environmental challenges [22]. The strength of the self-sufficiency village lies in the integration of technology into communal practices that can serve as a testing ground for new socio-technical systems in the management of basic resources in the future [14].

Environmental sustainability and natural resource management are vital aspects of building a self-sufficient village that is in harmony with nature. Self-sufficiency villages can serve as grassroots experiments in the sustainability transition, where technology is integrated with communal practices to test new basic resource management systems [14]. The importance of environmental protection, environmentally friendly production management, and project initiatives and social activities that support nature preservation as indicators of the sustainability of self-sufficient villages [18].

Psychological self-sufficiency and happiness of residents are important indicators in measuring the holistic welfare of the self-sufficient village community. emphasis on villagers feeling healthier lives because they always think positively, reflecting strong psychological self-sufficiency [1]. The important role of virtues, such as honesty, perseverance, sharing, compassion, self-reliance, and public awareness, in achieving happiness as the ultimate goal of life [4]. In line with the concept of SEP, it aims to create independence and happiness that is quite in accordance with the strengths and resources of the citizens [16].

4 Discussion

This literature review seeks to answer questions about the definition, conceptual framework, and indicators of self-sufficient villages. Based on the synthesis of various literature, a self-sufficiency village is defined as a community that is able to meet most of its basic needs independently by utilizing the local potential and community empowerment, as well as being able to manage the risks and challenges faced [1], [8], [13]. The conceptual framework of independent villages can be understood through SEP, which emphasizes the principles of moderation, rationality, immunity, knowledge, and morality as the foundation for achieving sustainability [4], [5], [6]. The proposed indicators to measure village self-reliance include various aspects such as financial and economic independence, food security, cultural preservation, human resource development, good governance, resilience to external shocks, fulfillment of basic needs, appropriate technological innovation, environmental sustainability, as well as psychological independence and happiness of residents [2], [14], [18], [21], [22].

The findings from this literature review confirm that self-sufficient villages need to strive to achieve optimal self-reliance by utilizing local potential and community empowerment, as well as adopting SEP principles to ensure their sustainability. This is in line with previous research, which also emphasizes the importance of economic independence, cultural preservation, and environmental sustainability in village development [3], [7], [10]. However, this literature review provides a new perspective by integrating the SEP framework in the conceptualization of independent villages and expanding the scope of indicators by including aspects of psychological self-reliance and happiness of residents. The implication of these findings is the need for a holistic and multidimensional approach in the planning and evaluation of self-sufficient village development programs, taking into account various interrelated aspects such as economic, social, environmental, governance, and psychological.

5 Conclusion

This scientific article aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the concept of self-sufficiency in villages through a systematic literature review. The results of the study show that a self-sufficient village can be defined as a community that is able to meet most of its basic needs self-reliance by utilizing local potential and community empowerment, as well as being able to manage the risks and challenges faced. The conceptual framework of self-sufficiency village can adopt SEPs that emphasize the principles of moderation, rationality, immunity, knowledge, and morality as the foundation for achieving sustainability through interrelated aspects such as economic, social, and environmental. Then, the proposed indicators to measure self-sufficiency in a village include financial and economic self-sufficiency, food security, cultural preservation, human resource development, good governance, resilience to external shocks, fulfillment of basic needs, appropriate technological innovation, environmental sustainability, as well as psychological self-sufficiency in the village and happiness of residents.

The implication of these findings is the need to design more integrated and contextual village development policies and programs that take into account the diversity of local potentials and community aspirations. This research makes an essential contribution to enriching the study of rural development. It offers a conceptual framework that can be used as a reference in the planning and evaluation of self-sufficiency village programs. However, this literature review is still conceptual and needs to be validated empirically through field research. Suggestions for further research are to conduct case studies or field surveys to test the proposed conceptual framework and indicators, examine the application of the concept of self-sufficiency village in the context of village development policies and programs in Indonesia, and explore the factors that affect the success or failure of self-sufficiency village initiatives. Thus, a more comprehensive and applicable understanding of self-sufficient villages can be obtained to support sustainable rural development.

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