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EDITORIAL OFFICE

2nd Floor, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, State University of Gorontalo. Jl. Jenderal Sudirman No.6, Gorontalo City, Gorontalo Province 96128, Indonesia.

Email: drs.j@ung.ac.id

Principal Contact

Sahrain Bumulo
State University of Gorontalo
Phone: 081355082348
Email: sahrain@ung.ac.id

Support Contact

Dewinta Rizky R. Hatu
Email: dewinta@ung.ac.id

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PREFACE

The Dynamics of Rural Society Journal (DRSJ) is a scholarly publication of the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Gorontalo State University. The journal serves academics, researchers, practitioners, and students interested in the social, economic, political, and cultural life of rural communities. Using a systematic and transparent approach, DRSJ provides a platform to share ideas and solutions to problems rural communities face worldwide.

Rural societies are often perceived as isolated from global movements, but rural communities are actively undergoing change. Their social dynamics are always influenced by external factors, including the state, markets, non-rural groups, and global trends. Development policies promote modernization, urbanization, and globalization, which often create challenges such as social inequality, migration, conflict, and shifts in social structure and cultural identity.

This journal acknowledges the complex and interconnected dynamics characteristic of rural communities. It therefore aims to explore key factors affecting these communities, including land distribution inequality, access to natural resources, socio-economic empowerment, agricultural development, and the pursuit of sustainable development. Authors are encouraged to submit research addressing both local challenges and comparative, cross-national perspectives. Contributions are invited to advance scholarly understanding of how rural communities navigate socio-economic changes within broader contexts.

One crucial aspect of rural dynamics is the relationship between social groups, such as farmers, fishermen, and other communities dependent on natural resources. Research on social solidarity within rural communities and its impact on community development is integral to the scope of this journal. Additionally, analyzing how social stratification and power dynamics shape rural social structures is essential, especially in identifying factors that exacerbate economic and social inequality at the local level.

Gender dynamics in rural areas are also of paramount importance. The role of women in agriculture and the rural economy, as well as the often unequal division of labor, are critical themes that require further exploration. In this context, gender plays a significant role in shaping social structures, and women's roles in rural development are frequently marginalized, even though they are key drivers of local economic activities.

Socioeconomic empowerment, which encompasses various community empowerment programs and sustainable development initiatives, represents one of the key solutions to addressing inequality and poverty in rural areas. Social policies that strengthen the capacities of rural communities—especially through education, skills training, and economic empowerment—are vital for creating lasting change. Furthermore, the fair and sustainable management of natural resources is essential for improving the welfare of rural populations.

The management of village funds is another critical issue in rural development. The effective use of village funds can enhance infrastructure, education, healthcare, and other basic services that are crucial for rural development. Research on village fund management and the role of local governments in facilitating development is a central focus of this journal.

Additionally, the ongoing phenomenon of transmigration in various countries is a significant aspect of rural dynamics that warrants attention. The impact of transmigration on social, economic, and cultural structures in destination areas needs to be analyzed to

understand its contribution to rural development and the challenges faced by local communities.

As a continuously evolving journal, DRSJ is committed to providing a platform for research that addresses the various social, economic, and political dimensions of rural community dynamics. We believe that understanding the complexity of rural dynamics requires an interdisciplinary approach that integrates multiple academic disciplines. Therefore, we encourage research that is not only relevant to local contexts but also provides broader perspectives, incorporating social, economic, political, and cultural knowledge that influences rural communities globally. We also welcome international contributions that can enrich the journal with insights from different countries and cultures.

To maintain the scholarly quality of the journal, we continue to focus on enhancing international collaboration in the editorial and review processes. Through cooperation with academics and experts from various countries, we aim to present articles that are not only relevant to local contexts but also offer broader perspectives on how rural dynamics interact with global phenomena.

Thus, the *Dynamics of Rural Society Journal* serves not only as a platform for publishing articles but also as a medium to foster critical and solution-oriented thinking in addressing the challenges of rural development. We hope that every contribution accepted by the journal will have a positive impact on the development of social policies and deepen our understanding of the complexities and potentials of rural societies in navigating changing times.

We invite researchers and academics to continue contributing to this journal and encourage the submission of articles based on the latest research relevant to contemporary rural dynamics. We hope that this journal will provide valuable insights to readers and serve as a useful reference for enriching the academic literature on rural societies.

As a conclusion to this preface, I, as the Editor-in-Chief, would like to express my deepest gratitude to the editors, reviewers, authors, and loyal readers who have supported our journal. We believe that each article published in this journal has the potential to influence the development of theories and policies related to rural communities. We hope that, through the ongoing contributions, this journal can become an effective platform for advancing global understanding of the challenges and opportunities present in rural areas. We also wish to reaffirm our commitment to continuing support for cross-national research that compares rural dynamics across different parts of the world. Through this approach, we hope to uncover further relevant findings that will enrich development practices and policies aimed at improving the quality of life for rural communities.

Warm regards,

Sahrain Bumulo
Editor-in-Chief

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