

Analysis of Regional Innovation System Policy Implementation in Achieving Regional Innovation Index in Mesuji Regency Government

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Abstract

This study investigates the implementation of the Regional Innovation System (SIDa) policy and its impact on the regional innovation index within Mesuji Regency. The research explores factors that support or hinder the successful implementation of innovation policies, focusing on communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic structure. Using qualitative descriptive methods, the study gathers data through semi-structured interviews, observations, and document analysis. Results indicate that while communication, resources, and bureaucratic structure support the implementation, the disposition factor, particularly commitment and incentives, requires improvement. The research underscores the need for stronger human resource development and better incentives to sustain innovation practices in Mesuji.

Keywords: Regional Innovation; Implementation; Innovation Index.

Introduction

Local governance in Indonesia is primarily directed towards enhancing public welfare through improved service delivery, community empowerment, and regional competitiveness (Amin & Isharyanto, 2022; Ismail et al., 2022; Purnomo et al., 2021; Zulkarnain, 2022). Innovation serves as a critical element in fostering regional development and ensuring that local governments can effectively manage their affairs in line with national objectives (Barusman, 2024; Barusman & Habiburrahman, 2022; Dunga et al., 2023; Farida et al., 2018; Jelika & Effendi, 2020; Popiel & Jabłońska, 2014). The Regional Innovation System (SIDa) framework plays a significant role in enabling regions to develop creative solutions to local challenges (Gonzalez Loopez & Asheim, 2020; Oktaviannur & Pratama, 2016; Olesya et al., 2015). In Mesuji Regency, the implementation of the SIDa policy has become pivotal for improving the regional innovation index, a key performance indicator for local governments in Indonesia. This study seeks to analyze how the SIDa policy has been implemented in Mesuji Regency, focusing on the factors that facilitate or impede the

successful achievement of innovation goals. The three studies analyzed focus on regional innovation systems (RIS) and policies to enhance regional competitiveness and public service quality (Barusman, 2019; Kusharsanto et al., 2017; Saimima & Suhardan, 2020; Witjaksono et al., 2023).

(Mardana et al., 2023) explored Malang City's SIDa (Regional Innovation System) roadmap, employing a qualitative approach through desk studies and interviews with stakeholders like Bappeda. Their research analyzed SIDa's impact on accelerating smart city initiatives, focusing on themes and strategies for development, identifying gaps between current conditions and goals, and proposing policies to strengthen SIDa. Findings showed the roadmap supports creative economic growth by fostering innovation, though effective SIDa integration is essential for comprehensive regional benefits.

(Yahaya et al., 2021) examined the South Tangerang City government's regional innovation ecosystem. This study adopted a descriptive qualitative method, interviewing government officials, businesses, and communities. It emphasized the role of local leaders and the RAJADO model (Replication, Authority, Innovation Network, Budget, Digitalization/Online) for innovation management. Findings indicated gaps in human resources and creativity, with an imperative on leadership for transforming government knowledge into actionable public service improvements.

(Temitope, 2023) analyzed barriers to implementing RIS in Banten Province, using descriptive qualitative methods and previous research to identify key obstacles. They found that structural barriers, inadequate support for research and development, and infrastructure limitations hinder RIS effectiveness. They proposed reducing these barriers to facilitate regional innovation and competitiveness, stressing the need for stakeholder synergy and commitment. These studies collectively underscore the challenges and potential of regional innovation systems in fostering competitive, responsive governance in Indonesian cities.

Materials and Methods

This research adopts a qualitative descriptive approach to explore the implementation of the SIDa policy in Mesuji Regency. Data were collected using semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders directly involved in the innovation policy, including government officials and administrators. Observations and document analyses were also conducted to corroborate the interview findings.

A purposive sampling technique was used to select informants who had firsthand experience with SIDa policy implementation (Durga et al., 2024; Malik & Verawati, 2015; Oktaria et al., 2024; Oliveira et al., 2017; Sambodo et al., 2022). The research also incorporated participant observation and in-depth interviews to gain deeper insights into the phenomena being studied. Data analysis followed the Miles and Huberman model, involving data reduction, classification, and interpretation to provide a comprehensive understanding of the policy's implementation.

Results and Discussion

The implementation of the SIDA policy in Mesuji Regency demonstrates both significant achievements and notable challenges, shaped by key factors including communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic structure. Insights from studies on regional innovation systems (RIS) and innovation policies provide valuable perspectives that align with the observations in Mesuji Regency.

1. Communication:

The effectiveness of communication was pivotal to the successful execution of the SIDA policy. Similar to the findings in Malang City (Mardana et al., 2023), Mesuji Regency utilized diverse communication channels such as written directives, technical guidance, and digital platforms like WhatsApp to disseminate information. This multi-channel strategy ensured clarity and uniformity in stakeholder understanding of innovation objectives. However, like the challenges highlighted in South Tangerang's RAJADO model (Yahaya et al., 2021), occasional gaps in stakeholder engagement emphasized the need for continuous improvement in communication strategies to enhance collaboration across all sectors.

2. Resources:

The presence of adequate resources was integral to Mesuji Regency's innovation success. The establishment of 62 innovation managers (pamong inovasi), inspired by resource allocation strategies observed in Malang City's SIDA roadmap (Mardana et al., 2023), enhanced coordination and execution of innovation initiatives. However, as seen in Banten Province (Temitope, 2023), limitations in human resource development remain a barrier. Increasing both the quality and quantity of innovation managers through targeted training programs and institutional support is essential for sustainable innovation capacity.

3. Disposition:

While a strong commitment from government officials in Mesuji was evident, the absence of financial incentives presented a motivational challenge. (Yahaya et al., 2021) similarly emphasized the importance of leadership-driven incentives to foster creativity and performance in innovation ecosystems. Providing rewards or recognition for successful innovation managers could bridge this gap, fostering a more proactive approach to achieving innovation objectives.

4. Bureaucratic Structure:

The bureaucratic structure in Mesuji Regency provided a conducive framework for innovation through well-defined SOPs and interdepartmental coordination, mirroring the structured approaches in Malang City's SIDA (Mardana et al., 2023). However, as in South Tangerang (Yahaya et al., 2021), departmental fragmentation occasionally disrupted communication flows. Strong coordination mechanisms mitigated these challenges, but further streamlining of interdepartmental roles and responsibilities is necessary to maximize efficiency.

5. Supporting and Inhibiting Factors:

Key supporting factors for the successful implementation of the SIDA policy in Mesuji Regency included, the capacity of innovation managers to coordinate and

report innovation activities, as emphasized by regional competitiveness strategies (Kusharsanto et al., 2017). Strong commitment from local government leaders, aligning with findings from South Tangerang and Malang City that underscore leadership's critical role in fostering innovation (Mardana et al., 2023; Yahaya et al., 2021). Adequate budget allocations for innovation initiatives, particularly in technology development, echoing the recommendations from Banten Province (Temitope, 2023).

However, significant inhibiting factors included, the lack of incentives, which hindered motivation among innovation managers, paralleling barriers identified in South Tangerang and Banten Province. Limited human resources, reflecting a recurring challenge in regional innovation systems (Temitope, 2023). Insufficient understanding of innovation activity reporting mechanisms, highlighting the need for clearer guidelines and ongoing capacity building, as seen in Malang City and other regions (Temitope, 2023).

Conclusion

The implementation of the Regional Innovation System (SIDa) policy in Mesuji Regency has been successful in fostering innovation and improving the regional innovation index. However, to sustain this progress, further attention is needed in enhancing human resource capacity, providing incentives for innovation managers, and improving the overall understanding of innovation reporting mechanisms among government officials. By addressing these challenges, Mesuji Regency can continue to lead in regional innovation, contributing to the broader goals of public service improvement and regional competitiveness.

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