



## The Successful Rate of Food Self-Reliance Area Program in Great Aceh Regency

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v7i6.1666>

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### **Abstract**

This study aims to analyze the success of the Food Self-Reliance Area program in Lhoong District, Great Aceh Regency and what factors determine the success of the Food Self-Reliance program in Lhoong District, Great Aceh Regency. This research was conducted by survey research methods. Data were analyzed using descriptive analysis and Structural Equation Modeling-Patrial Least Square (SEM-PLS) analysis using the SmartPls program. The results showed the rate of success of the food self-sufficiency program in Lhoong District, Great Aceh Regency was in the medium category, with indicators of program success; (1) progress in the level of life; (2) progress of mindset; (3) increasing the role of institutions; and (4) improvement of facilities and infrastructure. Factors that influence the rate of success of the food self-sufficient program area are the participation of group members, group dynamics, the role of the local government, while the factors that do not affect the success of the Food-self-sustaining program are the companion roles.

**Keywords:** *Successful Rate of the Food Self-Reliance Area Program; SEM-PLS Analysis*

### **1. Introduction**

Two things are interrelated and inseparable namely poverty and food security, where poverty is not able to be fulfilled and get basic needs such as food. Disturbed food access is the inability of individuals or groups to meet food security. So, poverty reduction can also indirectly improve people's food security.

Improving food security is a way to address the problem of food insecurity and poverty, this is one of the focuses of development at this time. Decreasing rural poverty and meeting household food needs is one of the community's food security development programs. The government together with the community realize this food security and develop it from the household level. If food security is achieved at the household level, then food security at community, regional and national levels will also be achieved directly (Hidayat and Nugraha, 2011).

The development of a food self-sufficient region which is a development of the concept of a food-self-sufficient village, is a step taken by the Ministry of Agriculture's Food Security Agency since 2015 in order to strengthen and accelerate the eradication of food insecurity. A food self-sufficient area is an area formed by involving community representatives from selected villages or villages (5 villages / villages) in

one sub-district, by moving the poor communities in the food insecure areas into independent communities.

The main target beneficiaries of the food self-sufficiency program are poor households in areas that are vulnerable to food insecurity but have the potential to develop leading commodities with the basis of their selection being food security and vulnerability maps (FSVA).

Great Aceh Regency is one of the pilot project programs in the Food Self-Reliance Area located in Lhoong District. With the launch of the Food Self-Reliance program which is an activity that directly touches the poor in food-vulnerable areas with the aim of alleviating poverty and food insecurity so as to realize food security at the National, provincial, and district / city levels, which is cumulative from achieving food security at the household level.

As a community empowerment program, the implementation of a food independent area requires the participation of group members so that the program can run well so as to achieve optimal results in accordance with the program's objectives. The people who run the program can receive benefits and enjoy the results of the programs that start from the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation stages.

The success or failure of program activities in the field is largely determined by the role of the mentor both directly and indirectly in the implementation of the program (Habibullah, 2011). The success of the food independence program is inseparable from the role of the regional government in the form of guidance, but also the need for financial support to increase community capacity (Rachman et al., 2011).

This study will examine the extent to which the success rate of the Food Self-Reliance program in the Lhoong Sub-district area of Great Aceh Regency in terms of the indicators of success and the factors that influence the success of this program.

## **2. Methodology**

Determination of the location of the study was carried out intentionally, namely in Keutapang Village, Lamsujen Village, Lamjuhang Village, Utamong Village and Lamgeuriheu Village Lhoong Subdistrict, Great Aceh Regency, with consideration that the village was a stakeholder village in the Food Self-Reliance program. The object of this study is a member of the Food Self-Reliance program group in Great Aceh Regency. While the scope of this research is limited to the level of success of the Food Self-Reliance program.

According to Bungin (2013: 101) the population is the entirety of the object of research. The population in this study are all group members who are poor households (RTM) survey results of the Household Base Data (DDRT), which are fostered through the Food Self-Reliance program. The number of beneficiaries of the Food Self-Reliance Area program in the five villages is 292 RTM. The sample selection is taken purposively. Respondents were drawn from members of affinity groups who were none other than the beneficiaries of the Food Self-Reliance Area program from five villages in one of these areas. Respondents were taken as many as 20 people in each village.

This study uses descriptive analysis to describe the success of the Food Self-Reliance program in Lhoong Sub-district, Great Aceh Regency and SEM analysis using the Partial Least Square (PLS) approach to measure the influence of the variable participation of group members, group dynamics, the role of assistants, and the role of local governments on variables the level of success of the Food Self-Reliance program in Lhoong District, Great Aceh Regency.

The partial least square (PLS) approach to SEM offers an alternative to covariance-based SEM, which is very suitable for situations when data is not normally distributed. PLS path modeling is called a soft modeling technique with minimum demands related to measurement scale, sample size, and residual distribution (Monecke and Ludwig, 2012).

The SEM-PLS analysis consists of two sub-models, namely: (1) evaluation analysis of the measurement model (outer model) which shows how the manifest variable represents the latent variable to be measured and (2) structural model analysis (inner model) which shows the estimated power between the latent variables /construct. Evaluation of the measurement model (outer model) can be done with three criteria, namely convergent validity, discriminant validity and composite reliability (Ghozali, 2014). Following is the PLS model used in the study presented in Figure 1.

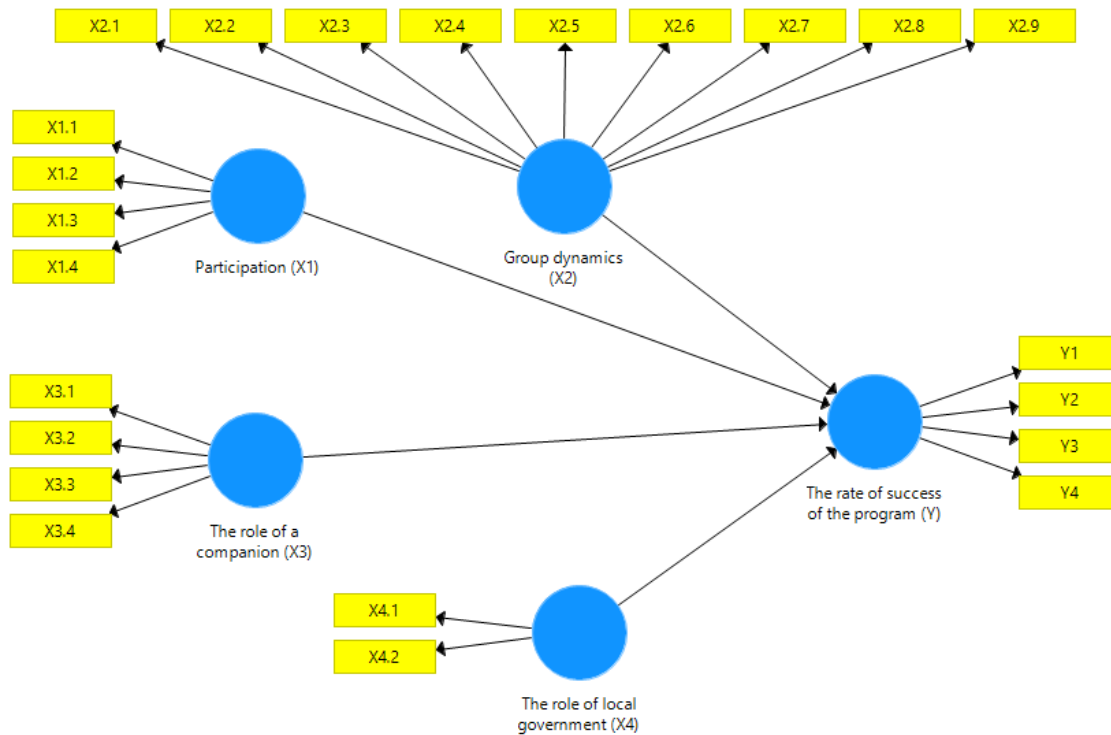


Figure 1. Partial Least Square (PLS) research model

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 The Successful Rate of the Food Self-Reliance Program

The successful rate of the Food Self-Reliance Area program is how much success the program has implemented based on indicators of success that are owned by the Food Self-Reliance Area program. The indicators of the success of the Food Self-Reliance Program in Great Aceh Regency are: (1) progress in living standards (2) progress in mindset, (3) improvement in institutional roles, and (4) improvement in infrastructure. Based on the results of data from 100 respondents The successful rate of the Food Self-Reliance Area Program can be seen in Figure 2 below:

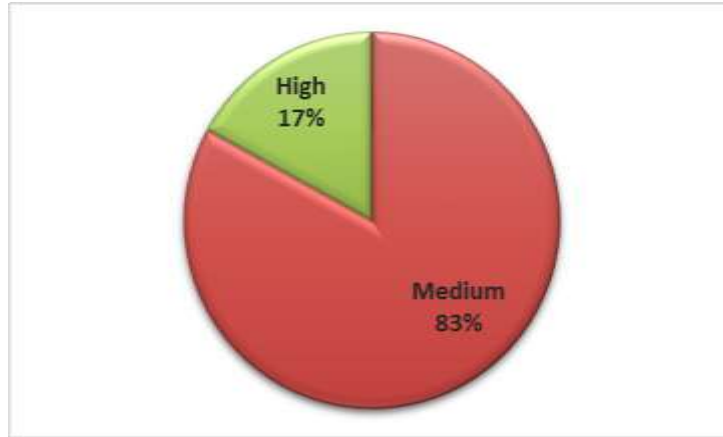


Figure 2. Graph of the Successful Rate of the Food Independent Area Program in Lhoong District, Great Aceh Regency

Source: Primary Data (processed), 2020.

Based on Figure 2 above, a graph of the successful rate of the Food Self-Reliance Area program is obtained based on an assessment of 4 indicators of success showing 83.00 percent in the medium category. Then in the high category at 17.00 percent. Based on data from 100 respondents Indicators of the success of the Food Self-Reliance Area program can be seen in the following graph

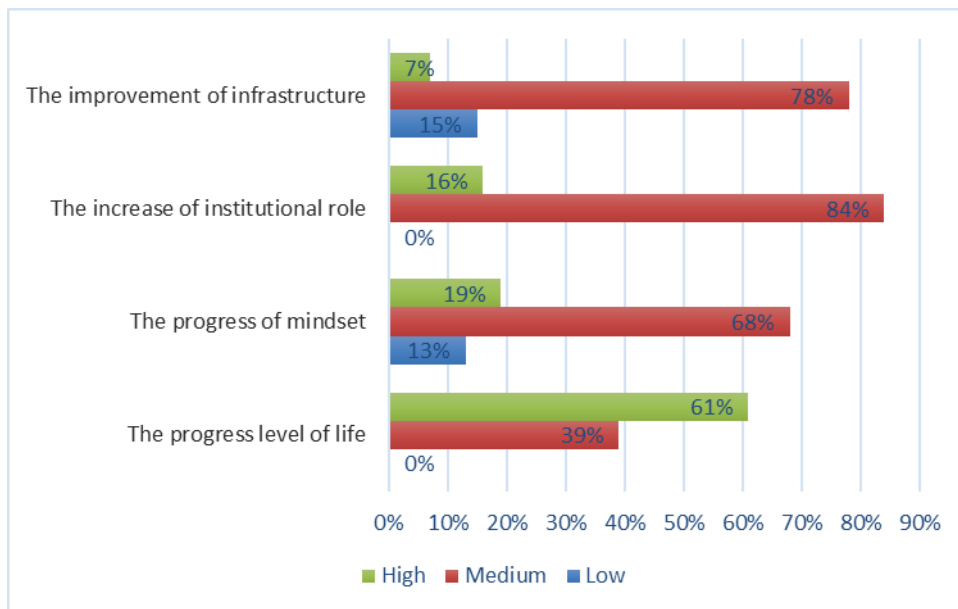


Figure 3. Graphic Indicator of the Success of the Food Self-Reliance Program in Lhoong District, Great Aceh Regency

Source: Primary Data (processed), 2020.

### 3.1.1 Progress of life level

Progress in life is the physical progress of the food security status of group members. This dimension of life level progress consists of five components / indicators namely; (1) income, (2) employment opportunities, (3) growth and development of group businesses, (4) nutritional adequacy and (5) improvement of sanitation and hygiene. From the results of the study presented in Figure 3, the progress of life level is mostly in the high category of 61.00 percent. Then 39.00 percent is in the medium category

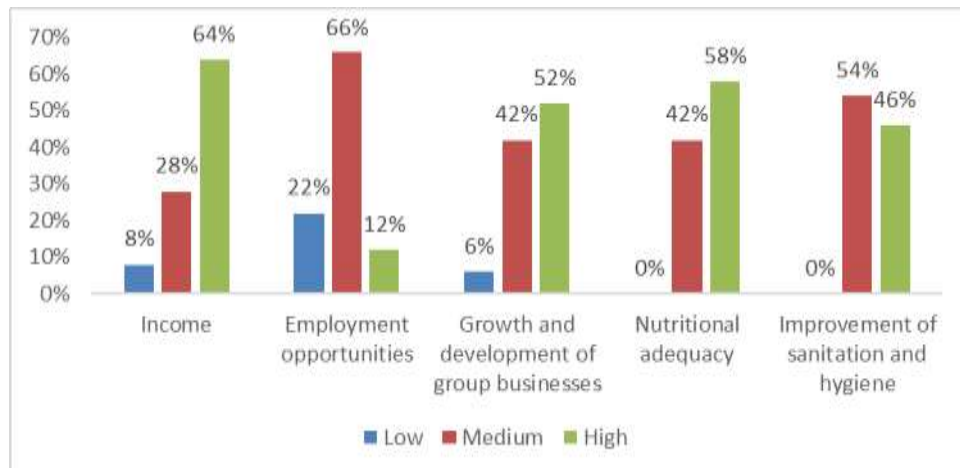


Figure 4. Graph of the distribution of respondents based on indicators of progress of life level

Source: Primary Data (processed), 2020

Based on the results of the questionnaire presented in the graph Figure 4 shows that the average group members already have job opportunities in two places as a source of income, so as to increase family income. When viewed from the development of group businesses, it has led optimally where there is an increase in sales turnover and some group businesses have increased the number of workers in running their businesses.

With the increase in income from group members indirectly there has also been a change in consuming food to fulfill adequate nutrition in the family, such as a varied, nutritious, balanced, safe food. According to Rachman (2011), one indicator of the prosperity of community members can be seen from nutrition and sanitation as well as the level of hygiene that is lived daily by the family.

In terms of sanitation and cleanliness of the home environment there have also been improvements, such as the availability of improved drinking water sources and MCK facilities as well as more comfortable housing conditions.

### 3.1.2 Progress in mindset

Progress in mindset is an improvement in human capacity shown through the development of a positive mindset. This dimension of life level progress consists of five components / indicators namely; (1) increased activity in groups, (2) saving habits, (3) increased self-confidence, (4) gender mainstreaming, and (5) skills improvement. From the results of the study presented in Figure 3, the progress of mindset is mostly in the moderate category of 68.00 percent. Then 19.00 percent is in the high category. While in the low category at 13.00 percent. Furthermore, the spread of mindset progress is presented in the following graph.

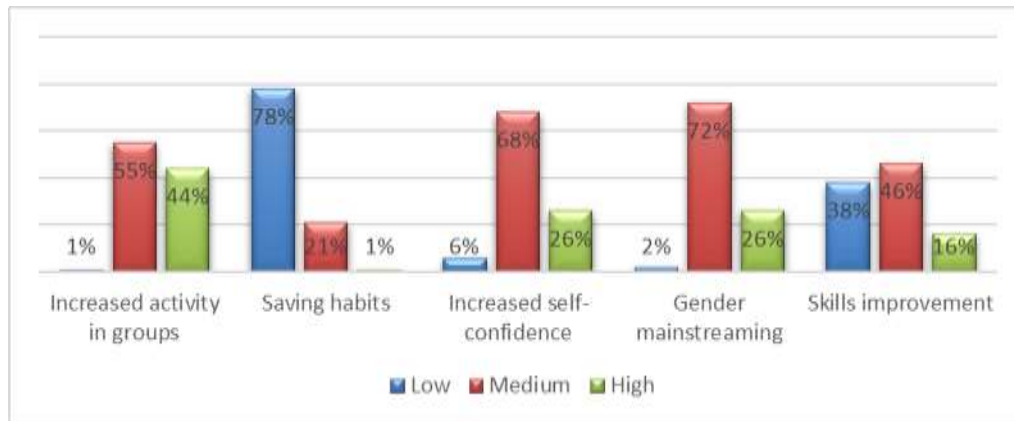


Figure 5. Graph of the distribution of respondents based on progress indicators of mindset

Data Source: Respondents

Based on the results of the questionnaire presented in Figure 5 graph shows that the increase in activity in the group is in the moderate category. Group members are always present at group meetings, but few understand the vision, mission and rules of the group. Involvement in the activities of the majority of respondents was only involved in some activities. Low respondent savings habits. Where the entire income is only stored at home, due to the absence of financial service institutions in the area. In terms of expressing the opinion of group members still do not want to express certain things at group meetings. This shows that there has not been an increase in the confidence of group members.

Gender mainstreaming is seen from the participation of female family members in groups and productive activities for female family members. Facts on the field show that women are less active in group activities / meetings, where the woman's family members have other important activities at home at the time of group meetings, so that the impact does not undermine the aspirations of female gender. This is also in line with the activities of female family members who are not active in the women's group.

Some group members do not yet understand about entrepreneurial practices and their application to improve group business, and also group members still lack understanding about the capital assistance of the Food Self-Reliance Area program which aims to strengthen group venture capital.

### 3.1.3 Increasing the role of institutions

Increasing the role of institutions is an increase in institutional capacity in the Food Self-Reliance Program, namely LKK being a capital / investment service institution at the regional / sub-district level and FKK becoming the coordinator of regional food security development. The dimensions of increasing the role of the institution consist of two components / indicators namely; (1) the role of the Regional Communication Forum (FKK), and (2) the role of the Regional Financial Institutions (LKK). From the results of the study presented in Figure 3, the increase in institutional role is in the moderate category at 84.00 percent. Then 16.00 percent is in the high category. Furthermore, the spread of increasing institutional roles is presented in the following graph.

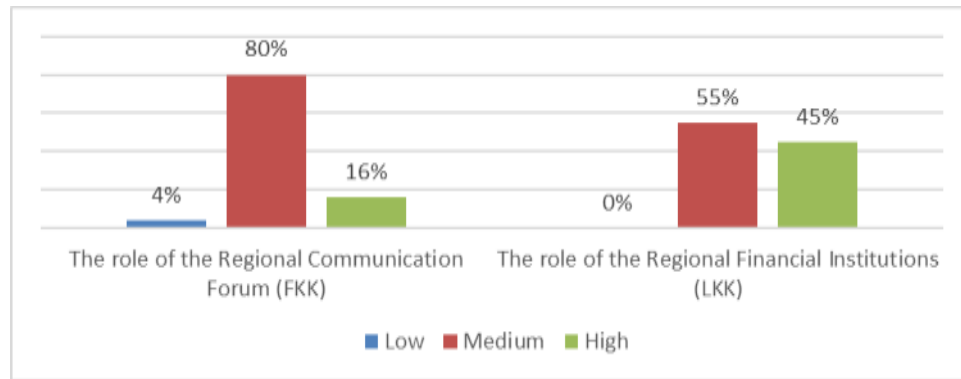


Figure 6. Graph of the distribution of respondents based on indicators of increasing institutional roles  
Data Source: Respondents

The institutional strengthening process can be carried out through: (1) technical training (financial, organizational and institutional administration); (2) group capital management assistance; (3) increasing cooperation with capital institutions; and (4) partnerships with various parties to expand capital and marketing network relations (Food Security Agency, 2017).

The role of the FKK includes providing input and mentoring activities to groups, holding meetings at least once a month, fostering groups in preparing RUK, and playing a role in group growth and mentoring. Based on the research results the role of FKK is in the medium category. FKK sometimes provides input and assistance to groups, this is because FKK rarely conducts group meetings.

The role of LKK includes providing input in managing activities, making financial administration, making AD / ART in managing funds, as well as providing regional-level capital and investment services. Based on the research results the role of LKK in the medium category. LKK management has made AD / ART in managing government aid funds based on deliberations and member agreements. Financial accounting bookkeeping is not orderly but can be justified. At present the regional financial institution (LKK) has not yet become a formal institution as a regional-level capital and investment service. This is due to the low human resources of LKK management in financial administration due to the lack of training of LKK management which is affected by weak cross-sector and stakeholder collaboration.

#### 3.1.4 Improvement of infrastructure

The improvement of infrastructure facilities is the support and commitment from external parties in the development of the Food Self-Reliance Program. The dimensions of the improvement of infrastructure consist of three components / indicators namely; (1) utilization of technology in rural areas, (2) development of advice and infrastructure and (3) development of processing and marketing facilities. From the results of the study presented in Figure 3, the improvement of infrastructure is classified as moderate in the category of 78.00 percent. Then 7.00 percent is in the high category. While in the low category it is 15.00 percent. Furthermore, the distribution of improved infrastructure is presented in the following graph.



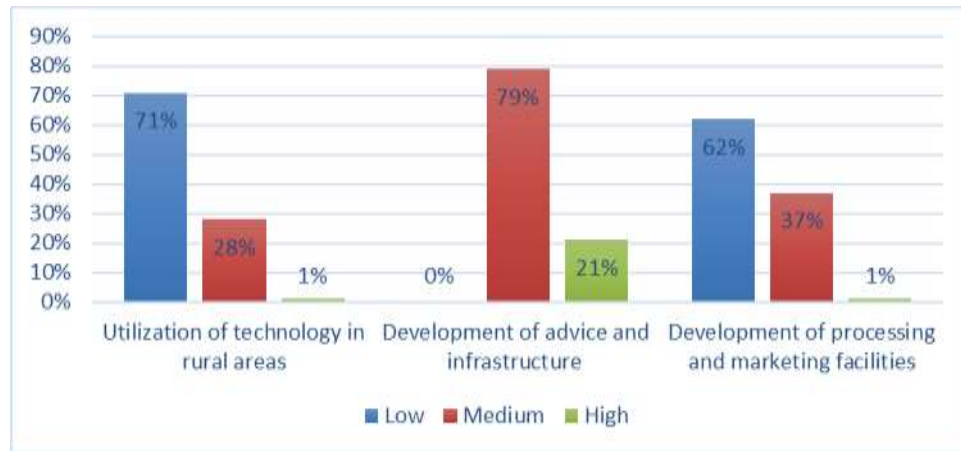


Figure 7. Graph of respondent distribution based on indicators of improvement in infrastructure

Data Source: Respondents

The use of rural technology in Lhoong Sub-district is not optimal in the sense that it still uses existing technology, according to Figure 7 in the low category. According to Rachman (2011) the low utilization of rural technology is due to the fact that socialization of the technology and technology is not yet optimal. The construction of rural facilities and infrastructure, namely the construction of health facilities, clean water facilities, irrigation facilities, road facilities, educational facilities and electricity facilities in Lhoong District are available. The infrastructure development has been carried out through a cross-sectoral program. Development of processing and marketing facilities in the low category. The availability of food processing is still lacking, as is the case for commodity marketing. This condition makes it difficult for group members to sell their products to outside the sub-district

### 3.2 Analysis Results of Factors Affecting the Successful Rate of the Food Self-Reliance Program

#### 3.2.1 Evaluation of the Measurement Model or Outer Model

Evaluation of measurement models is first done by evaluating convergent validity, which is an assessment of the loading factor value. The PLS model used in this study is a reflective model, meaning that the measurement of indicators is influenced by latent constructs or reflects variations from latent constructs (Ghozali 2014). Indicator is declared valid if it has a loading factor value above 0.700 (Ghozali 2014).

The model shows the influence between the factors of group member participation, group dynamics, the role of facilitators and local government on the successful rate of the Food Self-Reliance program. The results of the outer model can be seen in Figures 8 and 9.



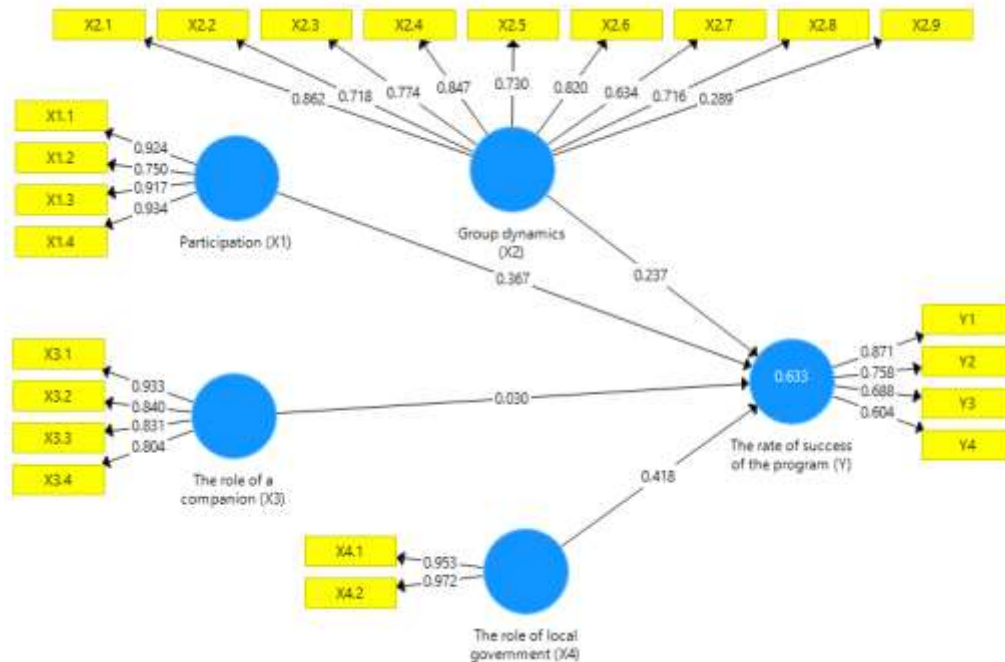


Figure 8. Model and initial calculation of loading factor

Figure 8 explains that there are 4 indicators that meet the criteria by loading factors below 0.70, so that it can be done one by one on these indicators and recalculated. After performing these steps, the final model and calculation are obtained. The results of deleting this indicator can be seen in Figure 9.

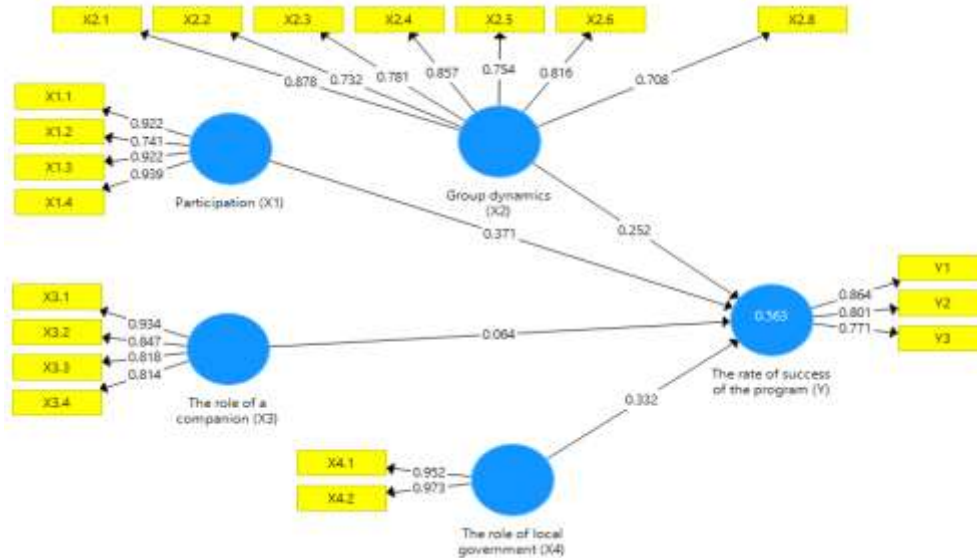


Figure 9. Model and final calculation of loading factor

Figure 9 explains the variable participation of group members reflected by four main indicators, namely the planning stage (X1.1), the implementation phase (X1.2), the evaluation phase (X1.3), and the enjoyment of results (X1.4). Of all the indicators of participation variables, the participation indicators for the stage of enjoying adequate results reflect the level of success of the Food Self-Reliance Area program with the greatest value, namely 0.939. The group dynamics variable is reflected by seven main indicators, namely group goals (X2.1), group structure (X2.2), task functions (X2.3), coaching and development

(X2.4), group cohesiveness (X2.5), group atmosphere (X2.6), and group effectiveness (X2.8). Of all the indicators of group dynamics, the group goal indicator reflects the level of program success with the greatest value, which is 0.878. The companion role variable is reflected by four main indicators, namely the facilitator (X3.1), motivator (X3.2), educator (X2.3), and counselor (X2.4). Of all the indicators of the role of the companion, the indicator of the role of the companion as the facilitator reflects the level of success of the Food Self-Reliance Area program with the highest value, namely 0.934. Government role variables are assigned by two main indicators, namely APBD support (X4.1), and cross-sectoral support (X4.2). Of the two indicators of the role of local government, cross-sectoral support indicators reflect the highest level of success of the Food Self-Reliance Area program, which is 0.973. The level of success of the Food Self-Reliance Area program is reflected by three main indicators, namely the progress in the level of life (Y1), progress in mindset (Y2), and enhancement of the role of institutions (Y3). Of the three indicators, progress on the level of life reflects the highest level of success of the Food Self-Reliance Area program, which is 0.864.

Validity testing with convergent validity is performed to determine the level of validity of the latent variable. The method used is to look at the SmartPLS output Average Variance Extracted (AVE) value of the construct. The AVE value is at least 0.50 (Sarwono and Narimawati, 2015). Average Variance Extracted (AVE) values can be seen in table 1.

Table 1. Average Variance Extracted Value (AVE)

Variabel	AVE
Participation (X1)	0.782
Group Dynamics (X2)	0.627
The Role of Companion (X3)	0.730
The Role of Local Government (X4)	0.926
The successful rate of the Food Self-sufficient Region Program (Y)	0.661

Data Source: Processed Data Results.

Based on Table 1, it is known that all constructs or latent variables have AVE values greater than 0.50, so it can be concluded that all latent variables can be said to have a good level of validity. The next stage is discriminant validity testing by comparing the square root of average variance extracted (AVE) for each construct and the correlation between constructs and other constructs in the model. The model has sufficient discriminant validity if the root of AVE for each construct is greater than the correlation between constructs and other constructs in the model. AVE square root values and correlations between constructs can be seen in the following Table 2 Fornell-Larcker Criterion.

Table 2. Fornell-Larcker Criterion

	Group Dynamics (X2)	Group Member Participation (X1)	Role of Local Government (X4)	Role of Companion (X3)	Program Success Rate (Y)
Group Dynamics (X2)	<b>0.792</b>				
Participation (X1)	0.491	<b>0.885</b>			
The Role of Local Government (X4)	0.398	0.290	<b>0.962</b>		
The Role of Companion (X3)	0.354	-0.030	0.166	<b>0.855</b>	
Program Successful Rate (Y)	0.590	0.590	0.551	0.197	<b>0.813</b>

Data Source: Processed Data Results

Based on Table 2 that the AVE square root value of inter-constructs is greater than the correlation between constructs and other constructs, so it can be concluded that the constructs of group member participation, group dynamics, the role of assistants, the role of local government and the success rate of the Food Self-Reliance Program have a level of discriminant validity tall one. The next stage after all variables are declared valid, the reliability value is measured. Reliability in the SEM-PLS method can be determined by looking at the value of Cronbach's alpha or composite reliability. The SEM model is declared reliable if both values are more than 0.70. Following are the values of the composite reliability of this study in Table 3.

Table 3. Value of composite reliability

Latent Variable	Value composite reliability	Cronbach alpha value
Participation (X1)	0.935	0.904
Group Dynamics (X2)	0.921	0.900
The Role of Companion (X3)	0.915	0.886
The Role of Local Government (X4)	0.962	0.962
The success rate of the Food Self- Realiance Area Program (Y)	0.854	0.747

Data Source: Processed Data Results.

Based on Table 3 it can be seen that all variables have composite reliability and Cronbach alpha values greater than 0.70. Then it can be concluded that all latent variables are reliable. Thus all constructs or latent variables meet convergent validity, discriminant validity, and composite reliability so that they can be continued for inner model analysis. 2. Evaluate the Structural Model or Inner Model Testing structural models in PLS can be done by looking at the value of R Square for the dependent construct, the value of the path coefficient or t-values for each path to test the significance of the constructs in the structural model. The value of R Square is used to measure the level of variation in the changes of the independent variable to the dependent variable. The higher the value of R Square means the better the prediction model from the proposed research model. Table 4 presents the value of R Square for the dependent variable of the study, namely the variable level of success of the Food Self-Reliance Program.

Table 4. R Square Adjusted Results

	<b>R Square</b>
The Successful Rate of the Food Self-Sufficiency Area Program (Y)	0.563

Data Source: Processed Data Results.

Based on Table 4, the R Square value of the variable level of success of the Food Self-Reliance Area program is 0.563, which shows that the construct variability of the success rate of the Food Self-Reliance Area program that can be explained by participation, group dynamics, the role of companion and the role of local government is moderate by 56.3% and the rest is 43.7% is explained by other variables outside the model.

The second test is testing through the bootstrapping method to see the T-statistic value and also the path coefficient used to see the original value of the sample. The T-statistic value obtained is used to measure the significance of the influence between latent variables. The results of bootstrapping can be seen in Figure 10

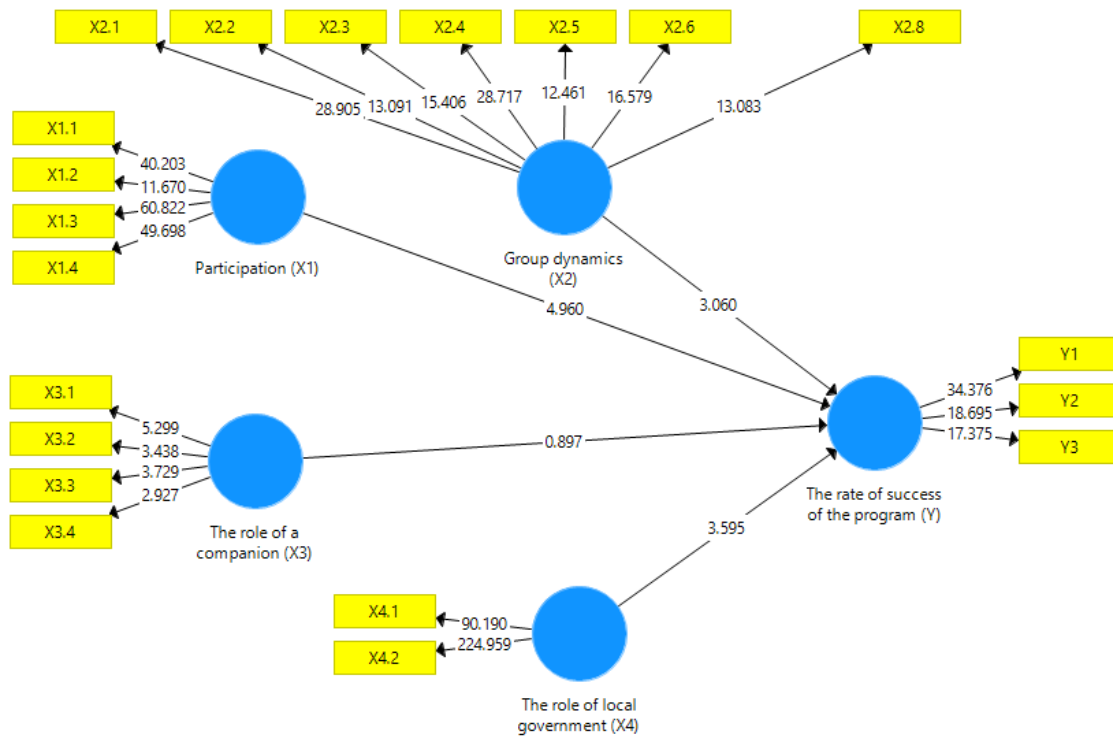


Figure 10. Model and final calculation using bootstrapping

Figure 10 explains the path coefficient value which shows the level of significance in hypothesis testing. The path coefficient score indicated by the t-statistic must be above the t-table value with an alpha significance level of 5% which is 1,985. Hypothesis testing is done by looking at the results of bootstrapping analysis on the path coefficient, namely by comparing t-statistics with t-tables. If the t-statistic value > t-table (1,985) then the hypothesis formulation is accepted, but if the t-statistic value < t-table (1,985) then the hypothesis formulation is rejected. In summary, the results of SmartPLS output on the path coefficient can be seen in Table 5.

Table 5. Output Path Coefficient

	Original Sample	T Statistics	Evaluation Model
Participation of group members (X1) → The Success Rate of Program (Y)	0.37	5.01	Significant
Group Dynamics (X2) → The Success Rate of Program (Y)	0.25	2.74	Significant
The Role of Companion (X3) → The Successful Rate of Program (Y)	0.06	0.94	Not Significant
The Role of Local Government (X4) → The Successful Rate of Program (Y)	0.33	3.38	Significant

Data Source: Processed Data Results.

Based on the results of the path coefficient in Table 5, conclusions can be drawn from the influence of group member participation, group dynamics, the role of counterparts, the role of the local government on the success rate of the Food Self-Reliance program in Lhoong District, Great Aceh Regency, as follows:

1. The magnitude of the direct influence of the participation variable (X1) of group members on the level of success of the Food Self-Reliance Area (Y) program in Lhoong District is 0.37 with a t-statistic value of 5.01. Because the t-statistic value is  $> 1,985$ , the model is significant and has a positive effect. The variable participation of group members affects the level of success of the Food Self-Reliance Area program because the active role and large contribution of group members to the group in implementing the program must be consistent so that the success of this program can be achieved.
2. The magnitude of the direct effect of the group dynamics variable (X2) on the success rate of the Food Self-Esteem Area program (Y1) in Lhoong District is 0.25 with a t-statistic value of 2.74. Because the t-statistic value is  $> 1,985$ , the model is significant and has a positive effect. The group dynamics variable influences the level of success of the Food Self-Reliance Area program in Lhoong District, Great Aceh Regency. If group members understand the purpose of forming the group then group members will be motivated to increase group business activities. Group effort will also increase with group coaching and mentoring.
3. The magnitude of the direct effect of the companion role variable (X3) on the success rate of the Food Self-Reliance Area (Y) program in Lhoong District is 0.06 with a t-statistic value of 0.94. Because the t-statistic value  $< 1,985$ , the model is not significant and there is no direct effect of the role of the accompanying variable on the success rate of the Food Self-Reliance program in Lhoong Sub-District, Great Aceh Regency. The role of the companion variable does not affect the level of success of the Food Self-Reliance Area program in Lhoong Subdistrict, Great Aceh Regency, because the facilitator does not play an optimal role in increasing the ability and bridging group interests in program implementation. Companion does not work ideally in fulfilling their duties. The facilitators only focused on activities in channeling government assistance. So that the main task as a companion in assisting groups, exploring potential resources, improving and encouraging group capabilities has not been carried out adequately.
4. The magnitude of the direct influence of the role of the local government variable (X4) on the success rate of the Food Self-Reliance Area (Y) program in Lhoong District is 0.33 with a t-statistic value of 3.38. Because the t-statistic value is  $> 1,985$ , the model is significant and has a positive effect. The government role variable influences the level of success of the Food Self-Reliance program in Lhoong Subdistrict, Great Aceh regency because the role of the regional government is very important in supporting the optimization and sustainability of the Food Self-Reliance program. The role of the government towards this optimization is by increasing funding support and forging better cross-sectoral cooperation.

### ***Conclusion and Suggestion***

1. The success of the Food Self-Reliance Area program in Lhoong Subdistrict, Great Aceh Regency is seen from the 4 indicators of success, namely progress in life level, mindset progress, increased institutional role that has been grown from the Food Self-Reliance Area program and increased infrastructure facilities to support village-level development. From the 4 indicators, indicators of progress in life level show a higher percentage of success, while indicators of progress in mindset, improvement in the role of institutions and improvement in facilities and infrastructure are in the medium category. So in this case, it can be concluded that the successful rate of the Food Self-Reliance Area program in the Lhoong Subdistrict, Great Aceh Regency is in the medium or not optimal category. So that maximum support is needed from the local government in the form of capacity building and strengthening implementation of this program. Capacity building can be done by providing assistance, training and counseling to affinity groups on a regular basis and also to group administrators.

2. There are 4 factors that influence the success rate of the Food Self-Reliance program in Lhoong District, Great Aceh Regency, namely the participation of group members (X1), group dynamics (X2), the role of counterparts (X3), and the role of local government (X4). Of the four factors that most influence the level of success of the Food Self-Reliance program in Lhoong Sub-district, Great Aceh Regency, namely the participation of group members, the role of the regional government and group dynamics. in this case it is necessary for the involvement of group members in the implementation of the Food Self-Reliance Area program such as repaying business capital loans in a timely manner, so that the funds can be rolled out and the program can continue. In addition, group members need to understand the purpose of the establishment of the Food Self-reliance group program, so that group members can be motivated to improve their group business activities.

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