

THE ROLE OF THE JAGOI BABANG CROSS-BORDER POST IN IMPROVING THE SOCIAL WELFARE OF BORDER COMMUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

Border areas play a strategic role in national development, including through Cross-Border Posts designed to improve inter-country connectivity and social welfare. This study aims to analyse the role of the Jagoi Babang Cross-Border Posts in supporting socio-economic development in the border area of Bengkayang Regency, West Kalimantan. Using a thematic analysis method based on secondary data, this study explores community perceptions, policy effectiveness, and key challenges in managing the Cross-Border Posts. The results indicate that while the presence of the Cross-Border Posts has improved access to basic infrastructure such as electricity and roads, limited inter-agency coordination and low local community skills remain major obstacles. This study is relevant for filling the literature gap in border area management and provides strategic recommendations for the government to enhance the Cross-Border Posts's role in a more inclusive and sustainable manner.

Keywords: *Border Area Cross-Border Post, Social Welfare.*

A. INTRODUCTION

As an archipelagic country, Indonesia faces significant challenges in terms of security, particularly regarding its extremely long border areas. According to research findings, Indonesia has a maritime area of approximately 5.8 million km², a coastline of around 81,000 km, and consists of 17,499 islands (Hadi, 2023). Border areas are districts/cities that are geographically and demographically adjacent to neighbouring countries and/or the open sea. Border areas consist of land and sea border areas, which are widely spread with diverse typologies, ranging from inland areas to small outer islands. (Ratminto and Winarsih, 2010). Border areas in Indonesia have long been identified as underdeveloped and isolated regions. The underdevelopment of border areas can be observed across

various aspects, including: inadequate basic infrastructure, low levels of community well-being, and poor quality of education and healthcare services. (Sudiar, 2015)

Functionally, border areas hold strategic value across various dimensions: national sovereignty, defence, security, and economy. (Firdaus, 2019). The development of border areas is an important component of the national medium-term development plan aimed at strengthening territorial integrity and sovereignty while improving community welfare. (Sinambela, 2019). The management of Indonesia's national borders is carried out based on the principle of development from the periphery by strengthening regions and villages within the framework of a unitary state (Yudha and Dina, 2020). As an area that serves as a direct border between countries, border areas have various potentials and problems (Simanjuntak, 2018).

In 2015, ASEAN member states officially agreed to launch the ASEAN Economic Community programme, an initiative aimed at integrating the ASEAN economy by establishing a free trade system among ASEAN member states. The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community underscores the importance and strategic nature of border management, as it ensures territorial integrity and upholds the sovereignty of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. Border areas have become highly vital with the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community, both in terms of economic activities and transportation. As a result, borders have become the frontline and outermost line, identified as both an entry point and a reflection of Indonesia's government development in the eyes of neighbouring countries. However, a problem has emerged, where the government seems to view national borders solely as defence zones that must be protected militarily. This can be seen from development policies that have been criticised for neglecting border areas and instead prioritising urban areas and regions with easy access (Tefa and Thaal, 2019).

Regarding border area management, the Indonesian government has issued various policies and regulations. The rapid development of border areas with a new paradigm in border area management was anticipated with the issuance of the *Undang-Undang Nomor 26 Tahun 2007* about Spatial Planning, which emphasises the priority of spatial planning for border areas as national strategic areas from the perspectives of defence, security, and socio-economics (Maisondra, 2023). The basis for spatial planning policies in border areas is based on five functions: (1) Border areas as the 'front porch' of the nation and an international gateway to neighbouring countries, (2) the application of the principle of harmony between welfare development and defence and security, (3) the protection of world conservation areas and national protected areas, (4) selective economic development in line with the external and internal potential of the area, and (5) the creation of mutually beneficial economic cooperation between countries involving local governments, communities, and the business world (Christine, 2023).

The Indonesian government is striving to develop border areas through the construction of Cross-Border Centres as instruments of equitable development and drivers of the local economy (Ministry of National Development Planning, 2020). The National Border Crossing Centre has become a symbol of the state's

presence and an important instrument in the development of remote areas. For example, the revitalisation of the Entikong National Border Crossing Post in Kalimantan has successfully increased cross-border trade activities by 25% in 2022. This success reinforces the narrative that border areas can become new engines of economic growth that improve the quality of life for their communities (World Bank, 2021).

The development of Cross-Border Posts also focuses not only on physical aspects, but also on local social and economic integration, in line with the government's commitment to the Nawacita development agenda. Furthermore, the development of the Aruk Cross-Border Posts in Sambas Regency, West Kalimantan, emphasises the importance of the border's role in regional transformation. Based on Firdaus's research (2019), the development of the Aruk Cross-Border Posts has encouraged increased community access to basic services and opened up more formal and regular trade routes with Malaysia. The impact is not only felt in the form of economic growth but also in social aspects such as strengthening national identity and social cohesion among border communities. Trade volume in Aruk has surged, with projections indicating a 20% growth in local exports by 2023. The success of the Aruk Cross-Border Posts sets a precedent that a border-based development approach, when combined with inclusive governance and community empowerment, can create a more resilient and competitive region amid the dynamics of the ASEAN regional landscape.

In addition to these two Cross-Border Posts, the Jagoi Babang Cross-Border Posts also plays a strategic role as a key node in the management of Indonesia's border regions. Located in Bengkayang Regency, West Kalimantan, this Border Crossing Point directly borders Serikin, Sarawak, Malaysia, and is part of the 11 priority Border Crossing Points for development in the National Medium-Term Development Plan 2020-2024. The existence of this Border Crossing Centre is designed to strengthen inter-country connectivity while promoting regional economic integration within ASEAN. Local flagship products such as agricultural and forestry products have significant export potential through the Jagoi Babang Border Crossing Point, in line with the expected increase in cross-border trade volume, which is projected to exceed 15% by 2023. Additionally, this post plays a crucial role as a transportation hub, facilitating the movement of goods and services between the border regions of Indonesia and Malaysia (Asian Development Bank, 2021).

The Jagoi Babang Cross-Border Centre also contributes to enhancing national security and the social welfare of the local community. As part of the border surveillance strategy, the Cross-Border Post serves to prevent illegal activities, such as smuggling of goods, human trafficking, and drug trafficking. In a social context, the existence of the Border Crossing Point has been a catalyst for basic infrastructure development, such as improved access to roads, electricity, and clean water, which has benefited more than 10,000 local residents in 2023. In addition, access to health and education services in the area has also improved, with the number of health facilities increasing by 25% since the Jagoi Babang State Border Crossing Point began operations. With its multidimensional role, the Jagoi Babang State Border Crossing Point is expected to support social-political

stability and become a catalyst for sustainable development in Indonesia's border regions.

Referring to this phenomenon, this study aims to explore how border development policies at the Jagoi Babang State Border Crossing Post can serve as a catalyst for socio-economic change in the community. This research is important to conduct, given the limited academic studies discussing the Jagoi Babang Border Crossing Post. Therefore, this research can be used as evaluation material and input for the government regarding the role of the Jagoi Babang Border Crossing Post.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Border Area

As stated in the *Undang-Undang Republik Indonesia Nomor 43 Tahun 2008* and the *Peraturan Badan Nasional Perbatasan Nomor 1 Tahun 2015*, the border area is part of the country's territory located on the inside along the borders of Indonesia with other countries, in terms of land borders, the border area is in the sub-district. Referring to the definition above, the position of the border area has a very important and strategic meaning considering its location which borders and faces directly with other countries.

The significance of border areas can be examined through three critical lenses: defense-security, economy-trade, and socio-culture. Each perspective provides insight into the unique challenges and opportunities these regions present.

- 1) **Defense-Security Perspective:** The defense and security aspect of border areas is crucial for maintaining national sovereignty. These regions, which directly adjoin another nation, are often susceptible to various security threats, including transnational organized crime activities such as terrorism, human trafficking, and drug trafficking (Rizaldi et al. 2023, 701-711). The geographical positioning of border areas makes them entry points for national security threats, necessitating a vigilant approach to security management to uphold stability and integrity at the national level (Itasari 2020, 219). Additionally, strategies for effective border management are essential in addressing these concerns, highlighting the importance of legislative frameworks and cooperative strategies with neighboring countries to mitigate risks and enhance security (Kurnianingsih, Darmawan, Mahadiansar, and Ribeiro 2022).
- 2) **Economy-Trade Perspective:** Economically, border regions serve as vital points for trade and economic activities, enabling the exchange of goods between countries in an efficient manner (Rumbiak, Fauzi, Hakim, and Kolopaking 2022, 59-68). The strategic importance of these areas contributes significantly to both national and regional economic growth and development. Studies indicate that fostering trade in border areas can enhance production activities and income generation, thus improving living standards and community welfare (Dołzbłasz 2019, 487-510). Furthermore, such regions have the potential to evolve into hubs of technological innovation, tourism, and agro-industries (Wahyudi, Setyowati, Usmi, and Huda 2024, 83), thereby

driving broader economic benefits (Djafar, Hassan, and Husaini 2016, 19-37).

- 3) **Socio-Cultural Perspective:** The socio-cultural narrative surrounding border regions is rich and complex. In areas such as the Indonesia-Malaysia border, communities often share cultural ties and traditions due to their common ancestral backgrounds (Kurnianingsih, Darmawan, Mahadiansar, and Ribeiro 2022). This cultural interconnectedness promotes ongoing cross-border interactions, which manifest in traditional family relations and modern economic exchanges (Wahyudi, Setyowati, Usmi, and Huda 2024, 83). Distinct variations in socio-cultural identities may also emerge at different border points, exemplifying the diverse fabric of these regions (Dołzbłasz 2019, 487-510). Additionally, the implementation of citizenship education programs in these areas aims to foster a sense of nationalism amidst the cultural exchanges and interactions (Wahyudi, Setyowati, Usmi, and Huda 2024, 83).

Cross Border Post

The State Border Post (SBP) serves as a tangible expression of national sovereignty, playing a strategic role in safeguarding territorial integrity, fostering economic development, and strengthening national security. Its function in managing cross-border flows and streamlining customs processes is essential for regional advancement (Setiawan, et al., 2020). Both Simanjuntak and Lubis assert that SBPs monitor transnational activities while serving as instruments of defence diplomacy crucial to protecting a nation's interests (Lubis, 2022). The need for adaptive immigration and border control policies in response to globalisation further underscores the evolving role of SBPs (Setiawan, et al., 2020). Additionally, SBPs are viewed as pivotal to economic progress in peripheral regions, aligning with the government's objective to improve welfare and national resilience, as noted by Saputra and Rahmawati (2024). Djuyandi, et al (2023) highlight that effective border management can reduce the risk of disputes and reinforce state legitimacy. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the critical role of SBPs in not only maintaining public health but also preserving the socio-economic wellbeing of border communities, such as those along the Indonesia-Papua New Guinea frontier (Tambunan & Lantang 2024). In sum, the SBP functions as a multifaceted institution integral to surveillance, economic facilitation, and national defence, affirming its significance in upholding state sovereignty.

Social welfare

Social welfare can be defined as a condition where basic human needs for a decent life are met, such as education, health, and social protection. Midgley characterizes social welfare as "a condition or state of human well-being," emphasizing that well-being arises when basic needs for nutrition, health, education, shelter, and income are fulfilled, along with protection from significant life-threatening risks (Tangwa, et al., 2017). This comprehensive view of social welfare encapsulates both the direct satisfaction of essential human needs and the broader structural environment that influences well-being, which includes political, economic, and social dimensions (Chan and Kung, 2000).

The importance of social welfare as a foundational element in the development of modern communities is underscored by its multifaceted approach,

which includes social, economic, and environmental aspects. Effective social welfare systems serve as a barometer for societal health, reflecting the population's access to basic services, community participation in decision-making, and equity in resource distribution (Mor et al., 2018). Indicators of social welfare thus not only gauge the immediate provision of needs but also assess the mechanisms through which these needs are met, thereby measuring the impacts of social programs on community welfare and cohesion (Bauer, Wilkie, Kim, and Bodenhausen, 2012).

Furthermore, the significance of indicator-based measurements such as education, health, and income levels is crucial for understanding the effectiveness of these social programs in enhancing community welfare. Research shows that the interplay of various social determinants can significantly affect health outcomes and overall well-being (Rahman 2006). Hence, a robust framework for evaluating social welfare must incorporate both quantitative indicators and qualitative insights about community experiences, thereby creating a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics that contribute to social welfare effectiveness (Franks, Champagne, and Higgins 2013). This holistic approach to welfare acknowledges that enhancing societal well-being is not merely a matter of economic redress but encompasses a broader consideration of human rights and ethical responsibility towards creating inclusive and equitable systems (Baik et al. 2020).

C. METHOD

This research is a qualitative research with content analysis method to understand the dynamics around the Jagoi Babang State Border Post, Bengkayang Regency. The content analysis method is a qualitative research technique that is widely used to analyze documents or text-based data systematically to understand themes, patterns, and relationships in the data (Krippendorff, 2018). This approach is to provide an in-depth understanding of how the Jagoi Babang Cross-Border Post affects the lives of local communities, while identifying challenges that need to be addressed to optimize the role of the Cross-Border Post in supporting social welfare in border areas (Hasanah, 2016).

This research involves data originating from various digital-based sources and online media (Reips, 2012). Online research allows for real-time data collection, which is critical for capturing dynamics and perceptions in ever-changing societies (Hesse-Biber & Griffin, 2012). The data collected was analyzed using a thematic approach, where information was categorized based on themes such as policies, socio-economic impacts, and challenges faced by border communities (Creswell 2014). Next, the existing themes identified were analyzed using qualitative analysis to gain in-depth insights (Sugiyono, 2020). The final step is drawing conclusions which is done by summarizing and giving meaning to the results of the analysis so as to achieve the research objectives (Grandjean, 2016).

D. EXPLANATION

Condition of the Community in Jagoi Babang

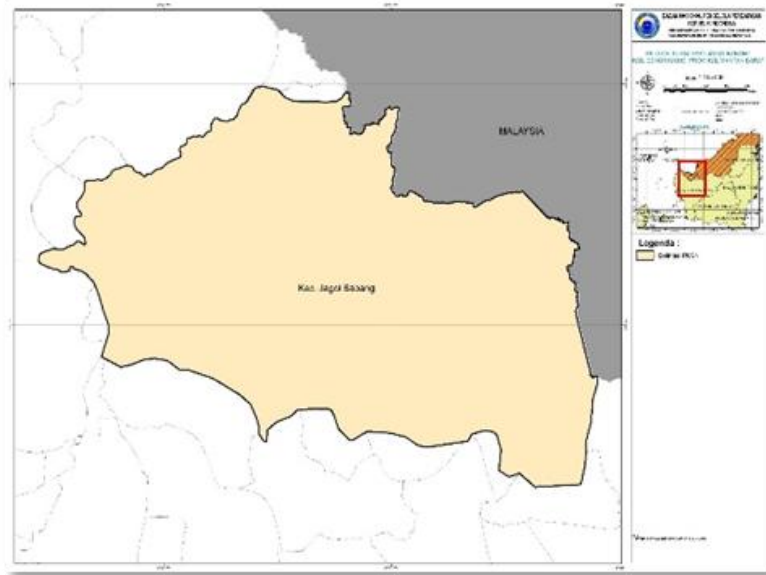


Figure 1 Map of Jagoi Babang Subdistrict

Source: BNPP Republic of Indonesia, 2025

Jagoi Babang Subdistrict is one of the administrative areas located in the northwestern part of Bengkayang Regency, West Kalimantan Province. Established in 1999, this area holds a highly strategic geographical position as it directly borders Serikin, Bau District, in the state of Sarawak, Malaysia. This geographical location makes Jagoi Babang not only a border zone but also a vital point in the national defence and security system. According to data from the BPS Kabupaten Bengkayang (2024), astronomically, this area is located between $1^{\circ}15'16''$ – $1^{\circ}30'00''$ N and $109^{\circ}33'95''$ – $110^{\circ}10'00''$ E, with an administrative area of 655.02 km². Administratively, Jagoi Babang borders Sarawak-Malaysia to the north, Seluas Sub-district to the south, Siding Sub-district to the east, and Sambas District to the west. This area encompasses six definitive villages as per Local Regulation No. 26 of 2003 and Local Regulation No. 5 of 2003, namely Jagoi Babang Village, Sekida Village, Kumba Village, Sinar Baru Village, and Gun Tembawang Village.

As an Indonesia-Malaysia border area, Jagoi Babang Sub-district has distinctive demographic characteristics influenced by its remote location and limited accessibility. The social and cultural dynamics of the local community have shaped a unique population configuration. According to data from the BPS Kabupaten Bengkayang (2024), the population in 2023 reached 10,012 people, consisting of 5,205 males and 4,807 females, with a sex ratio of 111.2. This male dominance is commonly found in areas where the main activities are in the agricultural and cross-border trade sectors, which tend to absorb more male labour.

Table 1. Population Distribution by Village in Jagoi Babang Sub-district

Village	Male	Female	Total
Jagoi	1.705	1.595	3.300
Kumba	892	807	1.699
Sinar Baru	565	537	1.102
Gersik	717	616	1.333
Semunying Jaya	276	272	548
Sekida	1.050	980	2.030
Total	5.205	4.807	10.012

The community of Jagoi Babang faces complex socio-economic conditions as a result of geographical isolation, limited infrastructure, and low access to basic public services. The population density is only 15.29 people per km², far below the average for Bengkayang District, which is over 40 people per km² (BPS Kabupaten Bengkayang, 2024). Population distribution disparities are particularly evident in remote villages such as Gun Tembawang and Kumba, which are hindered by inadequate basic infrastructure such as roads and electricity. Reliance on land routes that are not always accessible, especially during the rainy season, severely impedes residents' mobility and the smooth distribution of goods and services. Meanwhile, 38.6% of households do not have access to clean water and around 17% are not connected to the PLN electricity network, widening the gap in basic services between regions in this sub-district.

The economic structure of the Jagoi Babang community is still heavily dependent on the primary sector, particularly subsistence agriculture and the use of non-timber forest products. Horticultural commodities such as vegetables, pepper, and seasonal fruits are the mainstay, albeit on a limited scale. On the other hand, cross-border socio-economic interactions are a very real phenomenon, with many residents relying on informal trade activities in the Serikin area of Sarawak, Malaysia, for their livelihoods. The Serikin Market, held every weekend, attracts thousands of visitors from both countries and serves as the primary venue for the exchange of household goods and local products. However, since this trade occurs outside formal mechanisms, its contribution to the Regional Domestic Product (RDP) is not officially recorded, thereby increasing household economic risks associated with changes in immigration policies and cross-border surveillance. This reliance on informal activities highlights the weakness of the local economic structure, which has yet to provide safe and sustainable alternative sources of livelihood.

The intensive socio-cultural interaction between the Jagoi Babang community and Serikin residents creates a unique dynamic of dual identity in the region. Many residents have long-standing cross-border kinship ties, enabling natural and continuous social and cultural mobility. In practice, residents in both areas often attend traditional ceremonies together, shop for basic necessities at cross-border markets, and use similar languages and cultural symbols, such as in

Dayak Bidayuh rituals. These relationships contribute positively to social solidarity and mutual understanding between communities, but also create vulnerability to centralised state regulations that are often out of step with local social realities. For example, border restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily cut off access to livelihoods for thousands of border residents who depend on the Serikin market, highlighting how vulnerable economic life is in the absence of formal cross-border protection schemes.

Another equally important challenge is the limited access to relevant education and vocational training. Data from the 2023 academic year shows that only 18.4% of the working-age population completed upper secondary education, while the majority stopped at primary and lower secondary levels (BPS Kabupaten Bengkayang, 2024). This results in a dominance of unskilled labour, reinforcing the trend of informal labour migration to Malaysia. Remittances sent by families working in Sarawak are an important part of household economies, but they are unpredictable and highly dependent on immigration policies. In this situation, the development of vocational training institutions and support for community-based skills education are crucial to promoting vertical socio-economic mobility and reducing unprotected cross-border dependency.

Nevertheless, the Jagoi Babang community continues to demonstrate deep-rooted social strength through the values of mutual cooperation, the Dayak Bidayuh and Jagoi customary systems, and the active role of social institutions such as farmers' groups, youth groups, and village cooperatives. Community solidarity is maintained through village consultation forums and customary rituals that support social harmony. However, this social strength is not yet supported by adequate economic institutional capacity. Low financial literacy, limited access to business capital, and weak institutions such as village-owned enterprises (BUMDes) pose serious obstacles to local economic transformation. Therefore, interventions from the government and development agencies should not only focus on physical infrastructure but also on strengthening the capacity of local communities to manage their social, cultural, and economic potential independently, fairly, and sustainably.

The Role of the Jagoi Babang Cross-Border Post in Improving the Welfare of Border Communities

As an area designated as a National Strategic Activity Centre, Jagoi Babang is an important part of national policy on border area development. This designation is based on Presidential Instruction No. 1 of 2019 and reinforced by Peraturan Presiden Nomor 18 Tahun 2020 tentang Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Nasional (RPJMN) 2020–2024. Its status as a border region not only confers geopolitical and defence roles but also opens opportunities for economic integration and cross-border development. Jagoi Babang's position as a direct link between Indonesia and Malaysia is marked by the presence of a State Border Crossing Point which has been operating on a limited basis since 2019. This Cross-Border Posts serves as a crucial tool in strengthening bilateral relations through trade routes, population mobility, and social and cultural exchanges in the border region.

With the inauguration and operation of the Jagoi Babang Cross-Border

Posts in 2018, the government has equipped the area with modern infrastructure, including customs, immigration, and quarantine facilities, which directly support the efficiency and smooth flow of cross-border traffic. This policy also aligns with the ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan 2025, which prioritises cross-border connectivity as the foundation for regional integration. However, as noted by Arifin (2019), the strategic benefits of the Cross-Border Posts have not been fully realised due to logistical challenges in the border area, such as inadequate road infrastructure connecting villages and weak local transportation systems. This indicates that the presence of Cross-Border Posts's as logistics and trade hubs is not yet fully supported by comprehensive internal connectivity readiness, thereby limiting their effectiveness in driving local economic development. Therefore, a more integrated and layered policy approach is needed, encompassing not only physical aspects but also institutional aspects and community capacity to utilise economic opportunities.

The socio-economic conditions of communities around the Jagoi Babang Cross-Border Posts also reflect multidimensional structural challenges. Most residents work in the informal sector, such as subsistence farming and small-scale trade, which are not yet integrated into the formal economic system. Although there is a positive perception of the Cross-Border Posts among the community, particularly in relation to improved access to basic infrastructure such as electricity and roads, dependence on the cross-border market in Serikin, Sarawak, indicates vulnerability to fluctuations in bilateral relations. This is exacerbated by the lack of local economic diversification, which poses a threat to the economic resilience of border communities. In this context, a technological approach through the digitalisation and automation of public services, as proposed by the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology, is highly relevant as a strategy to improve service efficiency and create a more inclusive and sustainable economic ecosystem. By strengthening synergies between the central government, local governments, and the involvement of local communities in decision-making, the Jagoi Babang Cross-Border Posts has the potential to develop as a regional economic growth centre in line with the Nawacita vision.

In terms of the implementation of social welfare policies, the Jagoi Babang Cross-Border Posts reflects the integration of physical and social development dimensions as stipulated in Peraturan Presiden Nomor 43 Tahun 2021. One concrete form of implementation is the development of local MSMEs through entrepreneurship training, capital assistance, and business mentoring, particularly in the agriculture and forest product processing sectors. This programme contributes to boosting the local economy, as reflected in the increase in the electrification ratio from 60% in 2019 to 85% in 2023. Research supports the argument that access to basic infrastructure can significantly reduce economic inequality by up to 25%. Meanwhile, the World Bank report (2022) emphasises the importance of vertical integration between central policies and local implementers, as well as active community participation, as prerequisites for the success of border area development.

However, the effectiveness of this policy still faces serious challenges that could potentially hinder the sustainability of the programme. Limited market

access and workforce skills are obstacles to optimising the economic potential of the community. Furthermore, Setiawan emphasises the importance of inter-institutional coordination to avoid policy overlap. From a global perspective, it has been revealed that community involvement in development planning can increase programme effectiveness by up to 40%. At the local level, inadequate road infrastructure, with approximately 45% still in poor condition (Ministry of Public Works and Housing, 2023), hinders the distribution of goods and services. A survey by LIPI (2020) also shows low public awareness of the strategic role of Cross-Border Posts's, with 60% of the population unaware of their role in cross-border economic development. Issues related to the quality of cross-border services also arise, as reported by IOM (2021), which notes that the lack of training for Cross-Border Posts officers hinders operational efficiency. Nevertheless, opportunities remain wide open, such as a 30% increase in exports over the next five years through bilateral cooperation, and the potential of the Dayak cultural tourism sector as a driver of the local economy.

The digitalisation of cross-border services presents a strategic opportunity to strengthen the role of Cross-Border Posts's as nodes of economic integration. A UNCTAD report (2023) shows that the use of digital technology can reduce cross-border administrative time by up to 50%, improving the efficiency and transparency of public services. However, an online survey by LIPI shows that only 35% of the public are aware of the potential of Cross-Border Posts's in facilitating social welfare programmes. Although 60% of job training programmes have been implemented, only 40% of participants feel that the training is relevant to local potential such as agribusiness and forestry. This challenge indicates a gap between policy design and local realities. The UNDP report (2022) emphasises that community participation in planning is a key factor in improving programme effectiveness. Other studies reinforce this finding, showing that integrating local needs into policy design can increase programme effectiveness by up to 30%. Therefore, the Cross-Border Posts development approach must be expanded through increased community participation, strengthened local capacity, and cross-sectoral institutional reform.

Budgetary and policy support for the development of the Jagoi Babang Cross-Border Posts reflects the government's seriousness in realising the Nawacita agenda, particularly in developing from the periphery (Itasari, 2020; Setiawan, et al., 2020). Since 2018, the development of this Cross-Border Posts has focused on three strategic pillars: physical development through basic infrastructure improvements, strengthening the local economy through trade facilitation and SME development, and improving the social welfare of border communities (Djafar et al., 2016; Baik et al., 2020). The allocation of Rp1.2 trillion in 2022 demonstrates the national priority given to this region. However, limited inter-regional connectivity and the quality of human resources (HR) remain the main obstacles to making the Jagoi Babang Cross-Border Posts a hub for cross-border economic growth (Asian Development Bank, 2021; World Bank, 2021; Rizaldi et al., 2023; Kurnianingsih et al., 2022).

To overcome these challenges, synergy among stakeholders is needed through a more holistic and cross-sectoral development approach (Rumbiak et al.,

2022). The central government needs to strengthen logistics infrastructure development, such as inter-village roads and adequate transportation networks, while local governments must be more active in formulating local economic development policies that are relevant to the region's potential (Dołzbłasz, 2019; Saputra and Rahmawati, 2024). Strengthening human resource capacity must be a priority through the development of vocational education and work training based on local needs, including in the modern agriculture sector, culture-based tourism, and cross-border trade digitalisation (Wahyudi et al., 2024; Mor et al., 2018; Tangwa et al., 2017). On the other hand, the private sector can be encouraged to invest through fiscal incentives in strategic sectors, such as agro-industry, eco-tourism, and non-timber forest product processing (Chan and Kung, 2000; Franks, Champagne, and Higgins, 2013). Active community involvement also needs to be strengthened through participatory mechanisms, both in development planning and programme evaluation, to improve the accountability and sustainability of development interventions (Rahman, 2006; Bauer et al., 2012).

Other recommendations are directed at technical institutions such as the National Border Management Agency (BNPP), which must expand inter-ministerial coordination and ensure that there is no programme overlap (Djuyandi, Mustofa, and Husin, 2023; Lubis, 2022). Educational and training institutions can also be important partners by developing vocational curricula based on the needs of border areas (Tambunan and Lantang, 2024). In addition, it is necessary to develop a monitoring and evaluation system for Cross-Border Posts development based on spatial and social data, in order to identify disparities and the most effective interventions (Setiawan, Mendrofa, and Pramana, 2020). By strengthening coordination, improving the quality of local institutions, and ensuring that every development policy is in line with the reality on the ground, the Jagoi Babang Cross-Border Posts can be transformed into a model of inclusive, resilient, and sustainable border development in Indonesia.

E. CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion presented above, it can be concluded that the Jagoi Babang Cross-Border Posts plays a strategic role in promoting socio-economic development in the Indonesia-Malaysia border region. The existence of this Cross-Border Posts has had a positive impact through improved cross-border connectivity, access to basic infrastructure, and the facilitation of trade and community mobility. However, the optimal benefits of the Cross-Border Posts are still hindered by several challenges, such as low community participation in policy formulation, limited access to education and skills training, inadequate local connectivity infrastructure between villages, and the dominance of the informal sector, which has not yet significantly contributed to the formal local economy. Additionally, reliance on the cross-border market in Serikin, Malaysia, makes the community's economy vulnerable to changes in bilateral policies and other external conditions.

These challenges indicate that the potential of the Cross-Border Posts as a hub for socio-economic integration has not yet been fully maximised. Therefore, to ensure that the Jagoi Babang Cross-Border Posts can serve as a catalyst for

sustainable economic growth, cross-sectoral and cross-governmental efforts are required. The central government needs to strengthen supporting infrastructure development, such as road access and basic service facilities, and accelerate the digitalisation of cross-border services to enhance administrative efficiency and regional competitiveness. Local governments, on the other hand, are required to be more active in designing local potential-based economic policies, including promoting vocational training, SME development, and culture-based tourism. Fiscal incentives for strategic sectors such as agribusiness, local crafts, and cross-border services also need to be expanded to attract private sector participation.

Furthermore, strengthening local institutions such as cooperatives, village-owned enterprises (BUMDes), and customary institutions is crucial to promoting community economic independence. The role of technical institutions such as the National Border Crossing Agency (BNPP) needs to be optimised through more intensive coordination with relevant ministries and agencies, as well as through the development of spatial and social monitoring systems. This study also notes limitations in field data that may affect the depth of analysis. Therefore, further studies are recommended to use a participatory approach and primary data at the community level and to make comparisons with other Cross-Border Posts areas in Indonesia. With a more inclusive, participatory, and locally-based development approach, the Jagoi Babang Cross-Border Posts has a great opportunity to become a model of resilient and socially just border development for Indonesian border communities.

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