

The Impact of Sustainable Development Goals on Local and Community Networks and Opportunities

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Abstract

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) serve as a comprehensive blueprint for achieving a more sustainable and equitable future by 2030. These 17 global goals encompass various objectives, including poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion. This paper aims to analyze the impact of the SDGs on local and community engagement in Malaysia, examining the role of networks in facilitating sustainable development at the grassroots level. The methodology used in this study is a multistage evaluation with a combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis. In this project, the use of ROV is much more accurate and transparent to measure the impact of the project in terms of beneficiaries' satisfaction (deep), new skills acquired (clear), processes and procedures in place (system, formation of relationships/network (wide), gender consideration (gender), as well as long-term sustainability (SDG). The finding shows that evaluated projects offer beneficiaries opportunities to enhance and expand their community networking and foster strategic partnerships, joint actions, and shared priorities regarding the same goal.

1. Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, serve as a comprehensive blueprint for achieving a more sustainable and equitable future by 2030 (United Nations, 2015). These 17 global goals encompass a wide range of objectives, including poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion, recognizing that global challenges are interconnected and require coordinated action across multiple sectors and levels of society. Local and community engagement is pivotal to the successful implementation of the SDGs, as it ensures that development initiatives are grounded in the specific needs and contexts of local populations (Henfrey et al., 2023). This is particularly relevant in Malaysia, a nation characterized by its cultural diversity and varying levels of socio-economic development across its regions. Malaysia's commitment to the SDGs is not just a policy but a beacon of hope for a better future. Its national development plans emphasize inclusive growth and sustainable practices (Buniamin et al., 2020).

In Malaysia, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) has significantly advanced the integration of SDGs into local and community initiatives. Established in 2019, the APPGM-SDG plays a crucial role in fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration and promoting the localization of the SDGs across Malaysia. By engaging parliamentarians, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector, the APPGM-SDG is instrumental in developing and implementing SDG-related projects tailored to local needs. One of the key initiatives of the APPGM-SDG is the Impact Evaluation Project, a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of SDG implementation at the community level. This project involves rigorous evaluations of local

initiatives, focusing on their outcomes, scalability, and sustainability (Jayasooria & Othman, 2023). The impact evaluation project provides valuable insights into the best practices and challenges of SDG localization, which are then used to inform policy decisions and improve future interventions. In Malaysia, integrating SDGs into local and community initiatives has fostered a range of participatory approaches, empowering communities to take ownership of development projects. This engagement is facilitated through various networks comprising governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector entities, which collaborate to address local challenges (Tan & Woo, 2020). This networking is part of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) intending to provide individuals with the right skills, knowledge and attitudes or competencies towards their chosen future career (Lai, Hamisu & Salleh, 2018; Lai, Hamisu & Salleh, 2019; Puteh et al., 2011). TVET has become a successful factor in addressing challenges to achieving the SDGs. TVET workers not only have high technical skills but also soft skills (Puteh, Nor, & Zulkifli, 2012). These networks are also essential for mobilizing resources, knowledge, and expertise, thereby enhancing the capacity of local communities to achieve sustainable development outcomes. According to Isa et al. (2015), knowledge and skills have become vital and important sources for maintaining economic growth as they promote innovation, productivity, competitiveness and sustainability.

Despite these efforts, significant challenges persist in aligning local and community engagement with the broader objectives of the SDGs. Issues such as inadequate funding, limited awareness, and insufficient data on local conditions can hinder progress (Mohd Sani & Ahmad, 2018). Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities, disrupting community networks and impeding the implementation of SDG-related initiatives (United Nations, 2022). This paper aims to analyze the impact of the SDGs on local and community engagement in Malaysia, examining the role of networks in facilitating sustainable development at the grassroots level. The study investigates and assesses the impact of SDG implementation on local communities, while also examining the successes and challenges encountered by various stakeholders in embedding the SDGs within local contexts. This is done through case studies and empirical data. The findings will provide insights into practical strategies for enhancing community involvement and fostering resilient networks, especially community networks and opportunities that support sustainable development goals.

1.1 Community Engagement, Network and Opportunities

Community engagement and networking are processes of building relationships with local communities and interest groups to cooperate as partners, protect the environment, and make the community a better place to live. Networking opportunities allow individuals to interact directly or indirectly with others to form connections, seek advice, and learn new skills.

1.1.1 Community Engagement

The term community engagement can be defined in diverse approaches and practices, indirectly linked to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that require ongoing processes to meet the needs of communities. Despite the diversity of perspectives, all aspects of community engagement share a fundamental idea of the importance of social involvement. Community engagement requires various activities, from consultation and collaboration to partnership and empowerment. It involves actively community members in decision-making processes, from identifying needs and setting priorities to implementing solutions and evaluating outcomes. According to the study by Mahdi et al. (2022), most of the SDGs projects significantly impact the social, economic and environmental well-being of Malaysian communities, especially those from B40 families. These projects expose the beneficiaries, solution providers, and communities involved to numerous aspects, including awareness of current issues, the creation of innovative ideas, and engagement with multiple stakeholders. Furthermore, effective communication and collaboration among stakeholders are crucial for ensuring the sustainability of project outcomes and for evaluators to evaluate project impacts (Rahman et al. 2023). Open dialogue and information sharing can assess the effectiveness of achieving desired goals and identify areas for improvement for continued success.

Transformative learning and managerial skills have interrelations toward implementing SDG 4 to ensure inclusive and quality education for all (Cottafava et al., 2019). The implementation of SDG engagement in the context of higher education institutions can increase the collaboration within universities for teaching and research endeavors especially projects that involve community (Filho et al., 2023). This collaboration ensures that sharing opportunities such as teaching tools, expertise, knowledge exchange, and decision-making processes can improve the educational community and system. From the findings of Goggins and Hajdukiewicz (2022), engagement between students, lecturers, and communities can develop interactions, and even the students can be exposed to real problems based on a real-world setting. For example, the involvement of academic research and the social community plays an essential role in improving the quality of education.

Guidelines proposed by Boyle et al. (2022) outline good community engagement practices, focusing on enhancing climate-related infrastructure developments. These guidelines emphasize inclusive approaches that

involve citizens, communities and public bodies in decision-making processes regarding infrastructure projects. By actively engaging the communities, these guidelines aim to ensure that inclusive approaches facilitate the connection, construction and enhancement of current mitigation measures. Collste et al. (2023) an applied participatory approach that considers discussion, knowledge-sharing collaboration and even insights from the community. This systemic approach highlights divergent perspectives concerning local aspirations with global goals for visioning and exploring sustainable futures. Conceptual models have been developed by Geekiyanage et al. (2020) recommends that much attention be given to managing community engagement activities because most of the highlighted challenges are the lack of communities' knowledge and exposure to participatory decision-making for inclusive development.

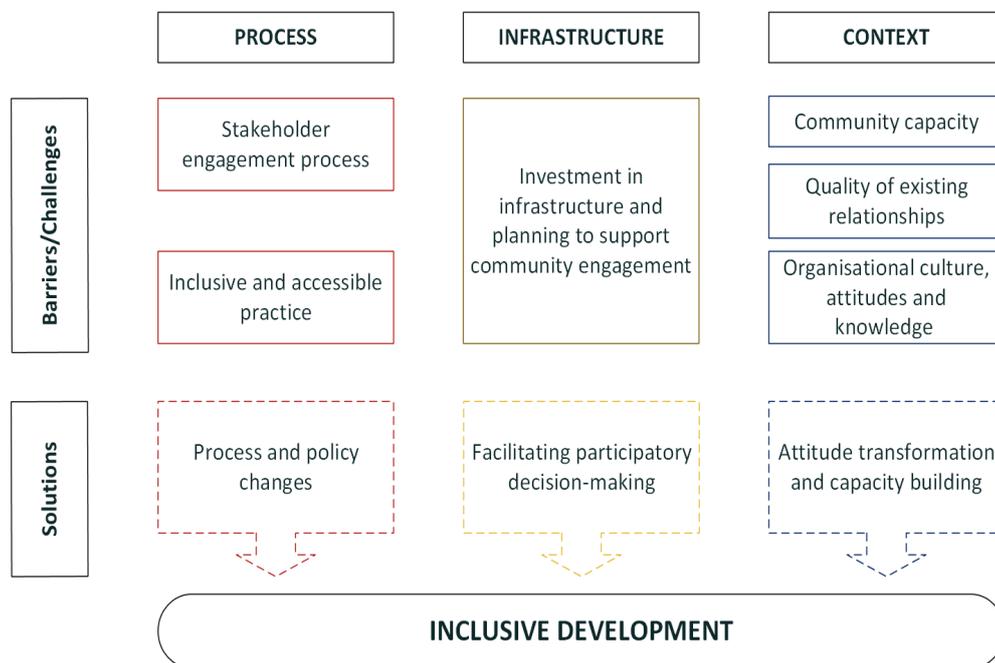


Fig. 1 Conceptual model to achieve inclusive development (Geekiyanage et al.,2020)

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) perceive sustainable development as a means to empower local communities economically to stimulate economic growth and stability of income (Smith et al., 2022). This perspective highlights the role of SMEs in promoting sustainable development and creating positive impacts for those who want to become entrepreneurs. By embracing sustainable practices, SMEs can generate employment opportunities, stimulate local economies and improve livelihoods within their community. Certificate training programs require practical skills demonstration where individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in entrepreneurship or secure employment opportunities (Tshikovhi et al., 2023). By investing in training programs, SMEs empower individuals to enhance their employability, pursue entrepreneurial ventures and contribute to the overall socio-economic development of their communities. In basic human rights, women and girls should be empowered to contribute to economic growth and development (Roy & Xiaoling, 2022). Giving women equal rights and preventing discrimination based on SDG 5 is crucial through effective participation in decision-making toward sustainable production practices. According to Mohd Yusof et al. (2022), community trust is vital in encouraging community participation in SDG-related initiatives emphasizing community engagement, reward and recognition, internal and external stakeholder partnerships, and planning interactive programs or activities. These activities or programs should involve both genders, men and women, to ensure that women do not feel left behind.

The study by Syahirah et al. (2023) indicates that SDG programs are well-implemented, and beneficiaries manage to learn new skills trained by solution providers and strengthen their networks within their communities. Additionally, it also acquires a new set of skills and knowledge. The skills and knowledge upgrading must be continued if they were to climb up the career ladder (Wan Muda et al., 2016). In addition, to ensure the relevance of education and training programs, community engagement can help to tackle current issues such as unsustainable development, rural unemployment and gender inequalities. Ab Rahman et al. (2023) recommended that future research needs to create more activities or courses of SDG projects for beneficiaries, concentrating on six fundamental dimensions, which are deep (personal), vast (network), clear (skills), high (system), SDG and gender.

1.1.2 Community Network

Community networks play an important role and become a driving factor in ensuring the successful implementation of 17 SDGs worldwide. Community networks can take various forms, involving individual community members and local organizations. These networks can be developed by sharing knowledge, decision-making towards the problem arises and continuous relationships with stakeholders or agencies involved (Park et al., 2023; Syahirah et al., 2023). Community networks also can take part in a broad scope beyond local communities, such as the public sector, companies or industries, organizations, university networks and the community in general (Dibbern & Serafim, 2021). These communities are considered as essential groups that influence decision-making practices at the national level as well as the global level (Trur, 2021). For example, the study by Del Arco et al. (2021) It found that bottom-up approaches, involving networks with experts and researchers, contribute to active participation in initiatives top-down in current issues related to rural depopulation. This highlights that community networking not only supports sustainable development but also educates communities and future generations, empowering them as contributors to address today’s societal challenges, especially the younger generation. The younger generation is increasingly uninterested in pursuing careers in the rural workforce (Awang et al., 2016).

Network development is one of the critical components involved in community empowerment (Sumardjo et al., 2022). Successful network development requires mutual trust, ongoing commitment, and prioritizing community needs to create positive changes. The Local Network SDG Action Plan emphasizes that sustainability practices can be implemented with the involvement and contributions of diverse groups to shape a more sustainable future Marín-González et al. (2021) build a framework representing the link of sectoral knowledge involved in social knowledge towards three main focuses: economic, social, and environmental. Figure 2 shows the characteristics of the production, government, university and community sectors associated with each other in local development. In the academic sector, the interaction and networking between universities should be prioritized to improve the quality of education or research (Pakkan et al., 2023). This involves collaborative research projects that can lead to higher-quality research outputs and innovative solutions. Students and lecturers can also gain diverse perspectives and experiences in research skills.

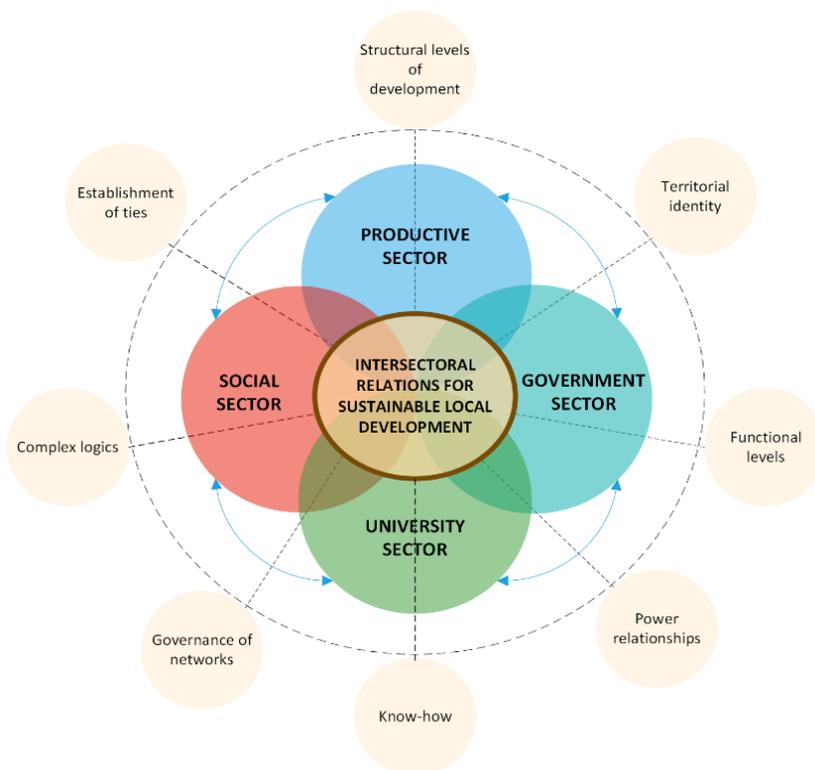


Fig. 2 *Intersectoral relations for sustainable local development (Marín-González et al., 2021)*

Furthermore, developing collaboration between academic and non-academic sectors has a more significant impact on advancing SDGs. According to Tetrevaova and Vlckova (2020), Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) develop collaboration with non-academic sectors to form continuous networking through field trips, training courses or joint projects to give exposure to the importance of SDGs. HEIs also play an essential role in shaping society through knowledge and community engagement (Pozi, Rahman, & Raziff, 2021). These collaboration

dynamics involve industry practitioners, non-profit organizations, governmental bodies, and major SDG players. A similar study by Leal Filho et al. (2023) emphasized the significance of university-community networking in potentially improving overall well-being, as illustrated in Figure 3. Networking indirectly can build relationships with communities to strengthen economic growth, create job opportunities, and support sustainable economic development within the community, such as entrepreneurs toward long-term economic stability.

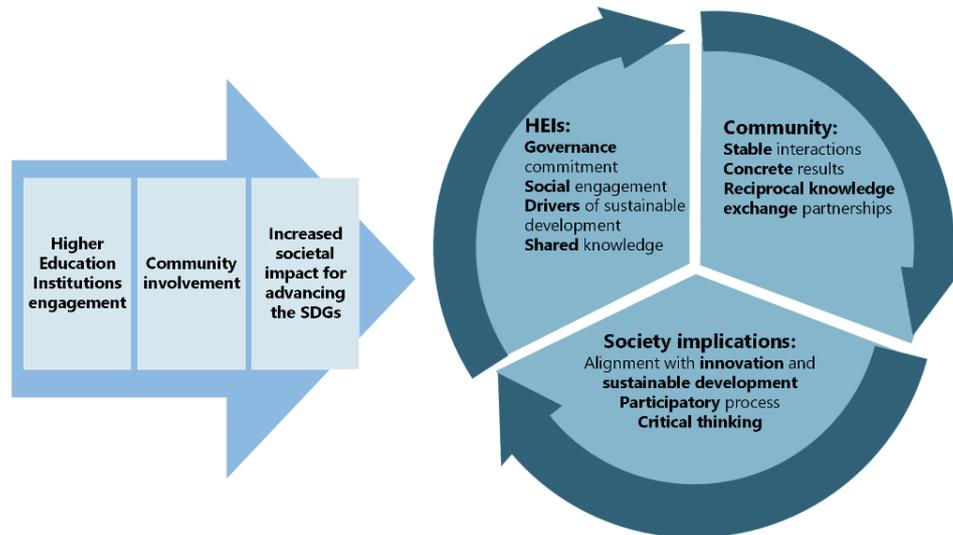


Fig. 3 The outcomes of university-community partnerships (Leal Filho et al., 2023)

2. Methodology

There are four phases of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) program execution, including 1) Issue mapping (Design), 2) Capacity Building (Planning), 3) Solutions Implementation, and 4) Impact Evaluation. Impact Evaluation is the last phase of APPGM-SDG execution for all solutions projects. Three main methodologies are employed to conduct impact evaluation, including 1) impact identification, 2) impact verification, and 3) impact validation. The SDG projects aim to provide sustainable solutions for the three main aspects: 1) economy, 2) social, and 3) environment. The economic solutions or projects aim to create or increase participants' income through entrepreneurial initiatives, the social solutions or projects cover critical national issues and focus on sustainable solutions, and environment solutions or projects, on the other hand, aim for environmental conservation, especially more endangered ecosystems.

Impact evaluation provides information about the impacts produced by the intervention. This impact evaluation goes beyond looking only at goals and objectives; it also examines unintended impacts. In this impact evaluation, the methodology used is a multistage evaluation with a combination of Quantitative and Qualitative analysis. The process started with the Monitoring and Evaluation process. The Monitoring and Evaluation process includes Design, Planning, Implementation, and Impacts. Furthermore, the evaluators were guided by the Valorization of the evidence framework based on the availability, accessibility, and usability of activities. The following process is Program Evaluation, where our team focuses more on the process evaluation. The final process is Impact Evaluation, a post-hoc assessment by impact evaluation teams who seek to examine how the project unfolded and whether the project met the anticipated goals or objectives.

The evaluators delved into the four phases of the project's evaluation using three qualitative methods, namely: 1) document analysis (DA), 2) focus group discussion (FGD), and 3) site visit (SV). Documents related to the projects were derived from three primary documents, including 1) the Project Proposal, 2) the Monthly Report, and 3) the Final Report for the Document Analysis. Besides these primary documents, the evaluation was also conducted based on the photos and videos attached by the solution provider in the reports. Evaluation through document analysis was performed on all 23 projects without exception. All projects had their objectives or goals based on their proposal to the APPGM, and it was aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Other than that, the evaluation method also utilized site visits (SV). The purpose of SV observation is to confirm further and validate the feedback obtained from the beneficiaries during the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) session. Details of the report based on document analysis can be found in an individual report, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 *Methods of impact evaluation*

No	Project Name	Evaluation Method
1	Heritage: Pendidikan Budaya & Warisan Orang Asal	DA
2	Program Kulineri Untuk Keusahawanan Wanita	DA
3	Memperkasa Ilmu Digital dan Teknologi Robotik di Kalangan Anak-Anak B40	DA, SV
4	MAPO: Muar Youth Hub	DA, SV, FGD
5	FISH (Fisherman – Sustainable – Household)	DA
6	MAPO – The SDG Centre	DA, SV, FGD
7	FoodS (Food, Development & Safety)	DA
8	Menjana Sosioekonomi Komuniti Penduduk	DA, SV, FGD
9	Menjana Sosio-Ekonomi Komuniti Penduduk	DA, SV, FGD
10	BAKEPRENEUR: Women Empowerment Program with bakery skills and setup of bakery centre	DA
11	Maximize the Designing & Printing True Potential/ Memaksima Potensi dalam Mereka Bentuk & Design	DA
12	Seeding the future: Empowering youth to become Next-Generation Farmers for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Production Systems.	DA, SV, FGD
13	Go Green Campaign	DA, SV
14	Pengupayaan Ibu Tunggal Melalui Kemahiran dan Ilmu Pemasaran Digital	DA, SV, FGD
15	Sesi Townhall APPGM-SDG Bersama Agensi-Agensi Kerajaan dan Ketua Komuniti	DA
16	Kebersihan Dijaga, Komuniti Sejahtera	DA
17	Projek Penjanaan Kelestarian Ekonomi dan Terapi Penagih Dadah Kekal Pulih Melalui Penternakan Pelbagai	DA
18	Fertigation Farming Entrepreneurship Training	DA, SV, FGD
19	Meningkatkan Pendapatan Ibu Tunggal Melalui Keusahawanan Berkelompok	DA, SV, FGD
20	Entrepreneurship Training – Fertigation Farming System	DA, SV, FGD
21	Program Pemerkasaan Usahawan Makanan Mikro B40 (Home-Based dan Street Food) Melalui Latihan pemasaran Digital dan Bimbingan	DA, SV, FGD
22	Ternakan & Pemiakan Landak Raya	DA, SV
23	Program Pemerkasaan Wanita dari Kumpulan B40	DA
Total: DA = 24; SV = 14; FGD = 11		

Note: DA=Document Analysis; FGD=Focus Group Discussion; SV=Site Visit

3. Findings and Discussion

Besides qualitative analysis, the solution impacts of 23 SDG projects were also evaluated using quantitative analysis, including the six dimensions of Deep Impact, Clear Impact, Wide impact, High Impact, SDGs, and Gender. The analysis was carried out for each solution project by calculating the mean value for each of the six dimensions. The range of the mean value and its interpretation are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 *Range of mean value and interpretation*

Range of Mean Value	Mean Interpretation
1.00 – 2.40	Low Impact (LI)
2.50 – 3.40	Moderate Impact (MI)
3.50 – 5.00	High Impact (EI)

Regarding impact evaluation, one measured criterion is the Return on Value (ROV). For the SDGs project, the ROV is measured based on the attribute of improvement of beneficiaries. There is no simple formula for ROV because each solution provider (SP) has a different value for what is important to them. However, for this project, the ROV expands evaluation beyond financial return. Ultimately, in this SDG project, using ROV is much more accurate and transparent in measuring the impact of the project because it assesses development activities. ROV considers beneficiaries’ satisfaction (deep), new skills acquired (clear), processes and procedures in place (system, formation of relationships/network (wide), gender consideration (gender), as well as long-term sustainability (SDG). Gender consideration is not just the number of women and men but knowledge and possible actions towards better access to resources and opportunities. The summary of the mean score for all projects is shown in Table 3.

Table 3 Summary of mean score of ROV for all projects

N o	Project Name	Deep	Clear	Wide	High	SDG	Gender
1	Heritage: Pendidikan Budaya & Warisan Orang Asal	4	3	4	3	3	4
2	Program Kulineri Untuk Keusahawanan Wanita	4	3	4	3	3	3
3	Memperkasa Ilmu Digital dan Teknologi Robotik di Kalangan Anak-Anak B40	2	1	2	2	2	2
4	MAPO: Muar Youth Hub	5	4	5	5	4	5
5	FISH (Fisherman – Sustainable – Household)	5	4	4	3	4	5
6	MAPO – The SDG Centre	5	4	5	4	5	5
7	FoodS (Food, Development & Safety)	5	4	4	4	4	5
8	Menjana Sosioekonomi Komuniti Penduduk	5	5	5	5	4	5
9	Menjana Sosio-Ekonomi Komuniti Penduduk	5	5	5	5	4	5
10	BAKEPRENEUR : Women Empowerment Program with bakery skills and setup of bakery center	4	4	4	3	3	3
11	Maximize the Designing & Printing True Potential/ Memaksima Potensi dalam Mereka Bentuk & Design	2	3	3	1	1	5
12	Seeding the future: Empowering youth to become Next-Generation Farmers for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Production Systems	3	3	3	4	4	5
13	Go Green Campaign	3	3	4	4	3	4
14	Pengupayaan Ibu Tunggal Melalui Kemahiran dan Ilmu Pemasaran Digital	4	4	5	5	4	4
15	Sesi Townhall APPGM-SDG Bersama Agensi-Agensi Kerajaan dan Ketua Komuniti	4	5	5	4	4	4
16	Kebersihan Dijaga, Komuniti Sejahtera	1	2	3	2	2	3
17	Projek Penjanaan Kelestarian Ekonomi dan Terapi Penagih Dadah Kekal Pulih Melalui Penternakan Pelbagai	1	1	1	1	1	1
18	Fertigation Farming Entrepreneurship Training	5	5	5	4	5	5
19	Meningkatkan Pendapatan Ibu Tunggal Melalui Keusahawanan Berkelompok	5	5	5	3	4	5
20	Entrepreneurship Training – Fertigation Farming System	5	5	5	4	5	5
21	Program Pemerdayaan Usahawan Makanan Mikro B40 (Home-Based dan Street Food) Melalui Latihan pemasaran Digital dan Bimbingan	4	4	4	5	4	4
22	Ternakan & Pembiakan Landak Raya	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Program Pemerdayaan Wanita dari Kumpulan B40	3	5	3	3	2	3
Total Score		84	82	88	77	75	90
ROV Mean Score		3.65	3.57	3.83	3.35	3.26	3.91
Mean Interpretation		HI	HI	HI	MI	MI	HI

Figure 4 and Figure 5 illustrate the summary of the total score, and ROV mean scores for all projects. The statistics show that of the six measured dimensions, only four have a High Impact and score HIGH, with a mean score ranging between 3.50 and 5.00. These four dimensions included Deep, Clear, Wide and Gender. The other two dimensions score MEDIUM with a mean score of 2.50 to 3.40. Based on the mean score, the Gender and Wide (formation of relationships/network) dimension is more dominant than the other dimensions. For gender, the score is the highest of the six dimensions; it clearly shows that the participants not only balanced between the participant's gender but, in some cases, knew the target group and could justify the sample selection. Overall, this is one of the dimensions in which the participants scored HIGH ($M=3.91$) on all projects. All participants, including men, women, boys and girls, are treated equally, they are given the same opportunities, and they indicate there is no inequality in gender for all projects. By doing this project, the solution provider proved that gender is not an issue. It is shown that gender equality is a central human aspect of the Sustainable Development Goals in Malaysia. The second highest mean score is wide dimension.

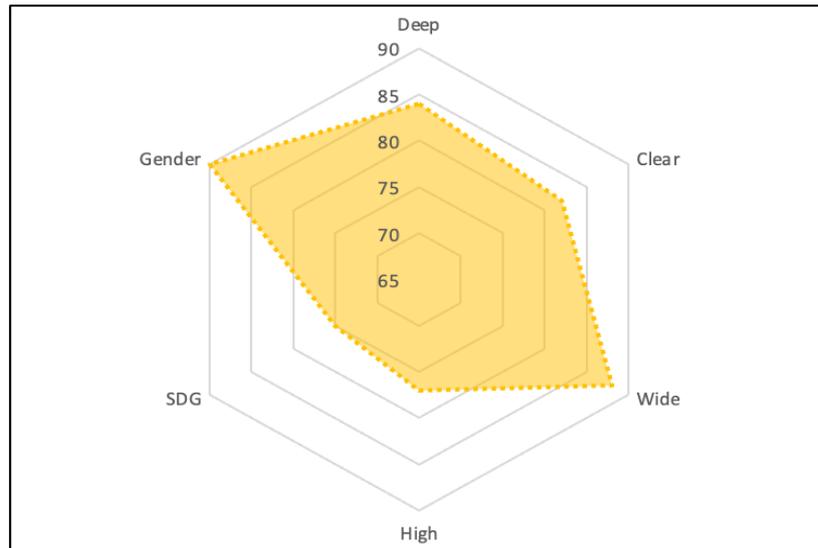


Fig. 4 Total score for six domains

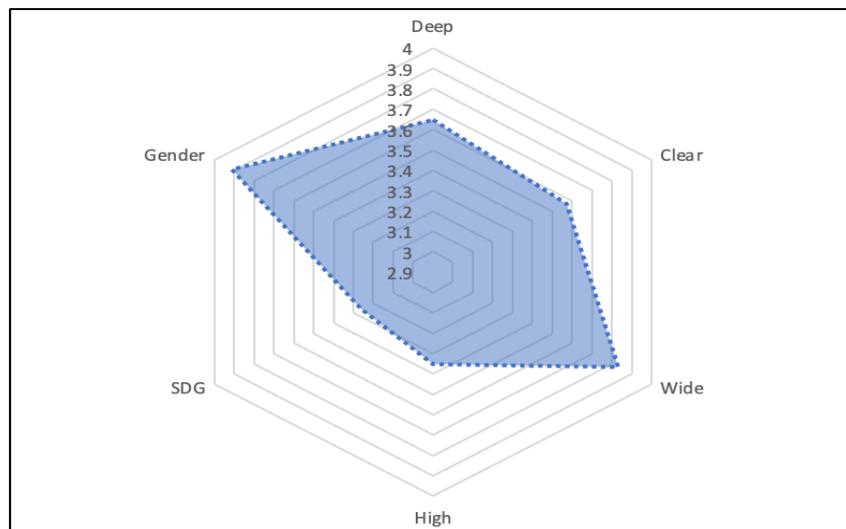


Fig. 5 Total ROV mean score

The Wide (formation of relationships/network) dimension is one of the dimensions that stands out this year. The impact evaluation clearly shows that the participants made new connections through the program and learned new things from each other. Overall, this is one of the dimensions in which the participants scored HIGH ($M=3.83$) in all projects. One of the reasons is that the participants can make new contacts and establish new networks during the project implementation and after the project is finished, and the most important thing is generated income. Income generation is crucial among beneficiaries because most are from vulnerable groups, including B40 families, low-income groups, local communities, and marginalized groups. Without a stable income, it is impossible to tackle and reduce income inequality and poverty, as stable income helps increase cash for these vulnerable groups. Income inequality and poverty significantly affect individual well-being and happiness, especially for those in the B40 and low-income groups who strive to improve their quality of life (Shuhidan et al., 2023; Sheik et al., 2015). The poverty issue among vulnerable groups remains a top concern for the government and policymakers, with a significant impact on their quality of life. It represents a new paradigm of thinking aimed at enhancing wealth and prosperity (Rahman & Jusoh, 2023).

Central to the concept of networking is the ability to communicate with others, either face-to-face or online. Networking allows the beneficiaries to reach potential buyers online, which creates business opportunities. An online medium has become an integral part of life and has become a significantly more profitable business model compared to the conventional model. A huge benefit of doing online business, such as e-commerce, is that an online store allows all transactions and interactions to happen through the internet. The Internet is a collection of connected computer networks with the capability of linking tens of billions of devices across the globe. With the wide use of the internet, users are able to access any pages available on the website or online store (Bidin &

Lokman, 2018; Lokman et al., 2012). In the modern business world and rapid economy, e-commerce involves a long supply chain that affects the production of goods and becomes important, creating new opportunities. Within the SDGs project, the beneficiaries find new work opportunities, contact collaborators, and meet potential customers in person or online and at the same time, they have the opportunities to improve their quality of life and overall well-being.

To work effectively collaboratively and commence the SDGs project, the beneficiaries understand the basic principles of networking and collaboration. Networking helps beneficiaries stay updated with the current industrial needs, trends, and developments. Furthermore, networking also helps beneficiaries understand the industry's requirements and be more informed about their work. This is like a community of practice within the same workgroup that leads to success (Puteh, 2018). While networking can provide a range of benefits, there are also some disadvantages, including the need to be more self-promotional, failing to follow up with contacts, and failing to show genuine interest in others. Beneficiaries must communicate, share, and understand common goals to deliver a good service or product. The interconnected SDGs promote sustainable economic, social, and environmental development. In this situation, all beneficiaries understand that the SDG projects are based on the economic, social, and environmental classification (EsSEV). Almost all the SDG projects are based on the economic, social or both economic and social. Therefore, the beneficiaries clearly understand their role, responsibility, and goal in the project. While all beneficiaries and solution providers worked together towards one goal, the impact evaluators reported all opinions, ideas, and suggestions for the following projects.

4. Conclusion

Since adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Malaysia, progress has been made towards achieving the 17 global goals. For this paper, all 23 SDG projects that have been evaluated provide beneficiaries with opportunities to foster strategic partnerships, joint actions, and shared priorities regarding the same goal. Most of the SDG projects were targeted at the B40 families, local communities, and marginalized groups. It aims to uplift their economic and social well-being and generate independent income. Specifically, these SDG projects help to focus efforts on the income generation of vulnerable groups that are the furthest behind by developing community engagement, establishing community networks and building opportunities.

Community networking is a powerful strategy that can significantly impact the growth and success of local businesses. Using community networking, beneficiaries allow them to become recognizable and familiar with their presence within the local community. It builds relationships with the local community and can lead to other business referrals. The opportunities arise within the local community and often expand to neighborhoods or other areas. Through community networks, beneficiaries gain insight into the local market and learn about trends, preferences and competitive businesses that help them make informed decisions. Furthermore, community networking becomes the beneficiary of personal growth. In conclusion, while doing SDG projects, the beneficiaries engage in community development that provides opportunities to promote sustainable development and address global challenges. Ultimately, the goal is to provide beneficiaries with the most extensive networking, comprehensive skills, and income generation for sustainable development.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest regarding the paper's publication.

Author Contribution

*The authors confirm their contribution to the paper as follows: **study conception and design:** Nor Lisa & Azmi; **data collection:** Kahirol, Nor Lisa, Azmi, & Maisarah; **analysis and interpretation of results:** Kahirol; **draft manuscript preparation:** Maisarah; **literature reviews:** Maisarah. All authors reviewed the results and approved the final version of the manuscript.*

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