

ARRANGEMENT OF SLUMS IN TAPAK KUDA VILLAGE, LANGKAT REGENCY

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the existing conditions of slums in Tapak Kuda Village, Langkat Regency, evaluate the factors that cause the existence of slums even though there has been a government improvement program, and formulate a sustainable restructuring strategy. The research uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a case study method. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, participatory observations, and documentation studies, and analyzed using reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawn. The results of the study show that the condition of the slums in Tapak Kuda Village still faces significant problems in terms of settlements, sanitation, and infrastructure, including uninhabitable houses, poor sanitation, limited drainage, and inadequate environmental roads. Factors that cause the existence of slums include the economic limitations of the community, settlement density, low citizen participation, environmental challenges due to land conversion, and limited coordination and government resources. The proposed restructuring strategies include the physical improvement of settlements, participatory approaches, socio-economic empowerment, integration of environmental aspects, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. The role of the government and the active participation of the community have proven to be the key to the success of sustainable slum planning. This research is expected to provide input for the government and related stakeholders in designing a slum management program that is more effective, sustainable, and improves the quality of life of the people of Tapak Kuda Village.

Introduction

Tapak Kuda Village, Lalat Regency, is one of the areas that is experiencing rapid population growth and economic activity. This growth has triggered an increasing need for housing and basic facilities, which unfortunately is not always balanced by adequate spatial planning and management. As a result, some parts of the village have developed into slums, characterized by dense housing, poor sanitation, limited access to clean water, and inadequate infrastructure. This condition not only reduces the quality of life of the community, but also has the potential to cause health and social problems. The slum area in Tapak Kuda Village has become increasingly complex due to various factors, such as low community income, limited government resources, and lack of awareness and participation of residents in maintaining the quality of the environment. In addition,

unstructured development patterns and lack of regulations related to spatial planning have caused the spread of slums to become more widespread.

This condition is a serious challenge for local governments, considering that slums not only have an impact on the welfare of the community, but also on the image and sustainability of the village environment. The arrangement of slums is an urgent need to improve the quality of life of the community, restore environmental function, and create a safe, healthy, and comfortable space. This arrangement not only includes physical development, such as road repairs, drainage, and sanitation, but also involves socio-economic aspects, such as increasing community participation, empowering citizens, and strengthening spatial regulations. Thus, this research is present to understand the existing conditions of slums in Tapak Kuda Village and formulate an effective and sustainable structuring strategy.



Tapak Kuda Village, located in Tanjung Pura District, Lalat Regency, North Sumatra Province, is one of the villages that faces significant challenges related to slums. With a village code 1205112016 and located on Jl. Kenanga Dusun II, this village is one of the focuses of the study because population growth and increased economic activity have not been balanced with adequate spatial planning. This is reflected in the condition of slums spread across several villages, including Tapak Kuda, with a total area of 130.61 hectares in Lalat Regency.

One of the indicators that confirms the slum condition is the existence of 335 uninhabitable houses. This condition shows that there is an urgent need for intervention in settlement improvement so that the quality of life of the community can be improved. Efforts to address the issue have been carried out through the Kotaku program, where 37.12 hectares of slums have been repaired, although most of the repairs are still focused on specific areas, such as Sei Bilah and East Sei Bilah Villages, Sei Lelan District. This confirms the need for a more comprehensive strategy for Tapak Kuda Village as a research location, so that improvements can effectively target all slums.

The arrangement of slums carried out by the Langkat Regency Government through the Housing and Settlement Areas Office has a clear goal, which is to provide a healthy, safe, and comfortable environment for the community. However, the success of this program is not only determined by physical development, but also by an understanding of the level of slums in the field. A study using the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) method shows that Tapak Kuda Village is a village that has quite high slum indicators, such as dense and unsuitable building conditions, poor sanitation, and limited

infrastructure. These findings are an important basis for this study to identify intervention priorities in slum planning.

In addition to internal village problems, Tapak Kuda Village also faces external challenges, such as the conversion of forest land into oil palm plantations covering an area of more than 100 hectares. This change in land use has the potential to worsen the quality of the environment and natural resources, so the arrangement of slums must consider aspects of environmental sustainability. This is in line with the Langkat Regency regional development program for 2025-2026 which emphasizes the importance of improving the quality of settlements through integrated slum arrangement. Taking into account these data, this study is here to analyze the existing conditions of slums in Tapak Kuda Village, evaluate the effectiveness of the restructuring programs that have been implemented, and formulate a more comprehensive improvement strategy. The focus of the research is not only on the physical aspects of settlements, but also on social, economic, and environmental aspects, so that the arrangement of slums can produce a sustainable impact on the welfare of village communities.

The arrangement of slums in Tapak Kuda Village is an urgent and relevant issue to be researched for several reasons. First, the condition of the settlements in this village shows a fairly high level of slums, with uninhabitable houses, poor sanitation, and limited infrastructure. Data shows that there are 335 uninhabitable houses and slums covering an area of 130.61 hectares in Lalat Regency, including Tapak Kuda Village. This condition poses health risks, reduces the quality of life, and has an impact on the socio-economic welfare of the community. Second, although the improvement program has been carried out through the Kotaku program and restructuring efforts by the Housing and Settlement Areas Office, the improvement is still partial and has not fully targeted all slums. This shows the need for more in-depth research to evaluate the effectiveness of the structuring that has been carried out and formulate a more comprehensive strategy, according to the local characteristics of the village.

Third, Tapak Kuda Village also faces environmental challenges due to the conversion of forest land into oil palm plantations, which can worsen environmental quality and the sustainability of natural resources. This research is important to ensure that the slum restructuring strategy does not only focus on physical development, but also considers environmental, social, and economic aspects, so that the interventions carried out are sustainable and have a positive impact on the community. Fourth, the arrangement of slums is in line with the Langkat Regency Regional Development Plan for 2025-2026 which emphasizes improving the quality of settlements. This research will provide concrete empirical input for village and district governments in formulating policies and programs for slum management that are more effective and on target.

Thus, this research is feasible because it is able to make a significant contribution to improving the quality of life of the people of Tapak Kuda Village, improving the residential environment, and supporting sustainable regional development planning. This research is also a scientific basis for strategic interventions and policies that are more responsive to the needs of rural communities.

Problem Identification

Based on existing conditions and existing data, some of the problems behind this research can be identified as follows:

1. **Slum Settlement Conditions**
There are uninhabitable houses in Tapak Kuda Village and a slum area of 130.61 hectares in Langkat Regency. Sanitation, access to clean water, and environmental facilities are still limited.
2. **Limitations of Structuring Program Effectiveness**
Repair programs like Kotaku have been carried out, but they have only targeted a part of the area and have not solved the problem thoroughly. Lack of an integrated arrangement strategy according to the local characteristics of the village.
3. **Environmental and Natural Resources Challenges**
The conversion of forest land into oil palm plantations covering an area of more than 100 hectares in Tapak Kuda Village threatens the quality of the environment and the sustainability of natural resources.
4. **Socio-Economic Gap**
Low community incomes lead to difficulties in improving the quality of homes and active participation in environmental planning.
5. **Need for Policy Support and Regional Planning**
The regional development plan of Langkat Regency includes the arrangement of slums, but its implementation and evaluation need empirical research to determine its effectiveness

Problem Formulation

Based on the above problem identification, the formulation of this research problem is:

1. What are the existing conditions of slums in Tapak Kuda Village, Lalat Regency, in terms of settlements, sanitation, and infrastructure?
2. What are the factors that cause the existence of slums in Tapak Kuda Village even though there has been a repair program from the government?
3. What are the strategies for structuring slums that can be applied to improve the quality of life of the community in a sustainable manner?
4. What is the role of the government and community participation in supporting the arrangement of slums in Tapak Kuda Village?

Literature Review

The Concept of Slum Settlements

Slums are defined as areas that have physical and social conditions that do not meet eligibility standards, such as density, poor sanitation, and limited infrastructure. According to Rahman et al. (2019), the characteristics of slums include high population density, low building quality, and lack of adequate public facilities.

Slum Planning Theory

Slum arrangement is an effort to improve the condition of slums through structured and sustainable planning. Hariyanto and Tukidi (2007) stated that regional planning is

formulated as a series of efforts to realize integration in the use of various resources, glue and balance development both nationally and regionally, and improve harmony between regions.

Participatory Approach in Slum Planning

The participatory approach involves the community in the planning and implementation process of slum planning. Akhirun (2025) emphasized the importance of the role of the community in the process of revitalizing slum areas through a participatory approach in Butungale Village. This opens up a great opportunity to evaluate the extent to which participatory approaches have been applied, as well as how the challenges and opportunities are in the context of settlement revitalization.

Slum Planning Strategy

The strategy of structuring slums can be carried out with various approaches, one of which is the concept of Collective Housing. According to research by Wulandari and Aulia (2025), the concept of slum planning in the area focuses on the development of green open spaces (Taman Kelurahan) with facilities such as children's playgrounds, MSME tenants, and communal spaces. This design is expected to meet the socio-economic needs of the community.

Research Method

Research Approach

This study uses a **descriptive qualitative** approach to understand in depth the phenomenon of slum arrangement in Tapak Kuda Village. This approach was chosen because it is able to explore the complexity of social, economic, and environmental problems in a local context holistically. As explained by Akhirun (2025), the qualitative approach allows researchers to explore the role of the community in the process of revitalizing slum areas through a participatory approach.

Types of Research

This type of research is a **case study** that focuses on Tapak Kuda Village as a unit of analysis. Case studies allow researchers to delve deeper into local dynamics and gain a richer understanding of the specific context of slums. According to Gaol (2025), the case study approach is effective for analyzing slum housing problems at the local level by considering the causative factors, impacts, and evaluation of slum management policies.

Research Location

The research location is located in Tapak Kuda Village, Tanjung Pura District, Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province. The selection of this location is based on data showing the existence of a slum area of 130.61 hectares in Langkat Regency, including Tapak Kuda Village. The area has the characteristics of dense settlements, with limited sanitary conditions and infrastructure, making it the focus of research.

Research Informant

The research informants were selected by purposive sampling, which is by considering certain criteria that are relevant to the research topic. The main informants consist of:

1. Village Heads and village officials: to obtain information on slum management policies and programs.

2. Local communities: to understand their perceptions, needs, and participation in the structuring process.
3. Other related parties: such as the Langkat Regency Housing and Settlement Areas Office, as well as non-governmental organizations involved in slum restructuring programs.

The number of informants is adjusted to the needs of data and reaches the point of information saturation.

Data Collection Techniques

The data collection techniques used include:

1. In-depth interviews: to dig up information directly from informants about their experiences, views, and expectations related to slum planning.
2. Participatory observation: to observe the physical condition of slums and the social interaction of the community directly.
3. Documentation study: to review documents related to policies, programs, and evaluation reports of slum management.

Data Analysis Techniques

The data obtained was analyzed using qualitative analysis techniques with the following stages:

1. Data reduction: the process of selecting, focusing, and simplifying the data obtained.
2. Data presentation: compiling data in the form of a systematic and easy-to-understand narrative.
3. Drawing conclusions and verification: drawing conclusions based on the results of the analysis and verifying to ensure the validity of the findings.

Data Validity

To ensure the validity of the data, this study uses source triangulation techniques and method triangulation. Source triangulation is carried out by comparing information from various informants, while triangulation methods are carried out using various data collection techniques to obtain a more comprehensive picture.

Results and Discussion

What are the existing conditions of slums in Tapak Kuda Village, Lalat Regency, in terms of settlements, sanitation, and infrastructure

The existing condition of slums in Tapak Kada Village, Tanjung Pura District, Langkat Regency shows a number of significant problems in terms of settlements, sanitation, and infrastructure. Based on data obtained from the Langkat Regency Housing and Settlement Areas Office, this village is included in an area that has uninhabitable housing and a fairly high population density. Of the total 335 uninhabitable houses in Langkat Regency, a number of units are in Tapak Kada Village, indicating an urgent need for settlement improvement interventions. The physical condition of houses in this area generally has a simple building structure, limited space, and a very tight distance between houses, resulting in high density.

From the sanitation aspect, slums in this village still face quite serious limitations. Most homes do not have proper sewage sewers, so some people dump domestic waste

directly into open sewers or small rivers around settlements. Access to clean water is also still limited, which has an impact on people's hygienic practices and increases the risk of environment-based diseases. According to the Kotaku report and data from the Langkat Regency Government, sanitation improvements have only targeted a small part of the area, so there are still many areas that need further intervention.

In terms of infrastructure, the slums in Tapak Kuda Village have narrow and mostly unpaved environmental roads, inadequate drainage, and a lack of public facilities such as parks, open spaces, and proper garbage dumps. This condition not only makes it difficult for people's mobility, but also increases the risk of waterlogging during the rainy season. The lack of infrastructure is one of the factors that strengthen the characteristics of the slums in this area and slow down efforts to improve settlements as a whole.

Overall, the existing condition of the slum area in Tapak Kuda Village shows that the problems of settlements, sanitation, and infrastructure are interrelated and require integrated planning. The arrangement of slums is not enough to only improve the physical of the house, but must also involve the development of proper sanitation, infrastructure improvement, and increased community participation so that the arrangement can take place in a sustainable manner and have a real impact on the quality of life of villagers.

What are the factors that cause the existence of slums in Tapak Kuda Village even though there has been a repair program from the government

Although the government through programs such as **Kotaku** and the arrangement of slums by the Langkat Regency Housing and Settlement Areas Office has made various improvement efforts, the slum area in Tapak Kuda Village still exists. This is due to several interrelated factors, both from the social, economic, and environmental sides.

First, the limited economic capabilities of the community are the main factors. The majority of residents of Tapak Kuda Village have low incomes, so it is difficult to make home repairs independently or participate optimally in the restructuring program. This condition causes some houses to remain in uninhabitable conditions, despite intervention from the government.

Second, the density and physical characteristics of settlements are also obstacles. Many houses are built very close together, with minimal open space, making it difficult to make thorough repairs. Limited infrastructure, such as narrow roads and inadequate drainage, slows down the development process and reduces the effectiveness of repair programs.

Third, the problem of community participation. Some slum restructuring programs require the active involvement of residents, for example in planning, maintenance, or management of environmental facilities. However, the low awareness or involvement of residents in collective activities causes the program to not be carried out optimally.

Fourth, environmental and spatial challenges. The conversion of forest land into oil palm plantations around the village has an impact on environmental degradation and affects the quality of settlements. This change in land use also creates limited space for the development of public facilities and new infrastructure that supports the arrangement of slums.

Fifth, limited government coordination and resources. The improvement programs carried out by the government are sometimes partial, targeting only a few specific areas, so

that they do not touch all slums as a whole. This shows the need for more integrated planning and sustainable structuring strategies.

Thus, social, economic, physical, environmental, and institutional factors interact with each other and are the cause of the still existence of slums in Tapak Kuda Village even though there has been a repair program. Effective slum planning requires a holistic approach, which not only improves the physical of settlements, but also increases community participation, improves infrastructure, and integrates environmental aspects in every intervention strategy.

How is the strategy for structuring slums that can be applied to improve the quality of life of the community in a sustainable manner

The strategy for structuring slums in Tapak Kuda Village needs to be designed holistically and sustainably, so as not only to improve the physical condition of the settlement, but also to improve the quality of life of the community as a whole. Based on the literature review and slum planning practices in similar areas, several strategies can be applied.

First, the physical arrangement of settlements. This strategy includes repairing uninhabitable houses, resetting residential density, building adequate drainage, improving environmental roads, and providing public facilities such as green open spaces. These physical improvements not only improve comfort and safety, but also reduce health risks and environmental disasters. Wulandari and Aulia (2025) emphasized the importance of developing green open spaces and social facilities in the concept of slum planning to meet the socio-economic needs of the community

Second, a participatory approach. Actively involving the community in the planning, implementation, and maintenance process of slums has proven to be effective in maintaining the sustainability of interventions. Akhirun (2025) shows that citizen participation increases concern and sense of belonging to the environment, so that the structuring program can function more optimally and sustainably.

Third, socio-economic empowerment. This strategy includes building community capacity through skills training, MSME support, and access to housing assistance programs. Improving the economic welfare of the community allows them to participate in the maintenance and development of residential areas, so that the sustainability of the restructuring program is more guaranteed.

Fourth, the integration of environmental and spatial aspects. Slum management must pay attention to environmental sustainability, such as land conservation, waste management, and wise use of natural resources. The conversion of forest land into oil palm plantations in Tapak Kuda Village shows the need for a strategy that takes into account environmental impacts so that the arrangement of slums does not cause further degradation.

Fifth, multi-stakeholder collaboration. This strategy involves village governments, district governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector in designing, implementing, and monitoring restructuring programs. Good collaboration can ensure more effective resource allocation, on-target programs, and long-term maintenance can be carried out.

By combining these strategies, the arrangement of slums in Tapak Kuda Village can be carried out in a sustainable manner. Interventions not only improve physical conditions, but also improve community participation, socio-economic well-being, and environmental quality. The result is the creation of livable, healthy, safe, and comfortable settlements, as well as an improvement in the quality of life of the community as a whole.

What is the role of the government and community participation in supporting the arrangement of slums in Tapak Kuda Village

The role of the government and community participation are key factors in the success of slum management in Tapak Kuda Village. The government, both at the village and district levels, is responsible for formulating policies, providing budgets, and implementing settlement improvement programs. Through the Langkat Regency Housing and Settlement Area Office and the Kotaku program, the government has carried out various interventions, such as repairing uninhabitable houses, building drainage, repairing environmental roads, and providing public facilities. This effort shows the government's commitment to improving the quality of life of the community and creating a healthy and livable residential environment.

However, the success of the slum restructuring program does not only depend on government intervention. The active participation of the community greatly determines the sustainability and effectiveness of the program. According to Akhirun (2025), a participatory approach that involves residents in the process of planning, decision-making, and maintaining environmental facilities increases the community's sense of ownership and responsibility for residential areas. In Tapak Kuda Village, community participation can be realized through village deliberation activities, community service, waste management, and maintenance of infrastructure that has been built.

Collaboration between the government and the community creates synergy that allows the planning and implementation of slum arrangement to be more effective. The government provides policies, resources, and infrastructure, while the community plays a role in maintaining, supervising, and optimizing the use of existing facilities. This strategy not only improves the physical condition of settlements, but also improves social, economic, and environmental quality, so as to achieve sustainable development goals. Thus, the role of the government and community participation complement each other in supporting the arrangement of slums in Tapak Kuda Village. The success of the restructuring program will be more optimal if the two parties work synergistically, with an approach that focuses on citizen engagement, program transparency, and planning that takes into account local needs and environmental sustainability.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis, several things can be concluded as follows:

1. Existing Conditions of Slums
The slum area in Tapak Kuda Village still faces significant problems in terms of settlement, sanitation, and infrastructure. Uninhabitable houses, limited sanitation, poor drainage, and narrow neighborhood roads are the main indicators of slum conditions.
2. Factors Causing Slums Still

The causative factors include the economic limitations of the community, settlement density, low citizen participation, environmental challenges due to land conversion, and limited coordination and government resources in the restructuring program.

3. Slum Planning Strategy

The proposed restructuring strategy includes the physical improvement of settlements, the implementation of participatory approaches, the socio-economic empowerment of the community, the integration of environmental aspects, as well as multi-stakeholder collaboration to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the program.

4. The Role of Government and Society

Synergy between the government and active community participation has proven to be an important factor in the success of slum planning. The government provides policies and facilities, while the community maintains, manages, and utilizes facilities to achieve healthy, safe, and comfortable settlements.

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