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A Systematic Review: Mirror-Mirror on the Wall, What is the Relationship Between Blue Economy and Community Development?

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to examine the relationship between the blue economy and community development toward improving living standards and livelihoods. A systematic literature review was conducted involving a total final sample of 15 articles published during 2017–2022. Specifically, the source of the database used in this study is Scopus, and Web of Science based on a set of inclusion/exclusion criteria for analysis and synthesis to meet the purpose of the paper. This study employed the thematic analysis method for the systematic literature review. The important components in this study are coastal resources, employment and society, and policy governance in the blue economy showing the innovations that have been successfully explored in this study. The blue economy is highly dependent on the cooperation of local communities in preserving the environmental treasures in developing sustainable development for the country. The community must have the courage to venture into the field of ocean activities because it is one of the main contributors to sustainable economic growth. In addition, the stakeholders who manage the governance of the oceans have a great impact on the change of a component to a new economic concept that can be a catalyst for economic growth. This paper seeks to contribute, analyze limited articles on the blue economy and community development toward improving living standards, and identify further research areas.

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the term of Blue Economy (BE) has become a concept closely linked to marine resources, coastal communities, and economic growth. The 'Blue Economy' is an emerging concept that promotes better oversight of ocean or 'blue' resources and highlights in particular the close relationship between the oceans, climate change, and the well-being of the people [1]. Blue Economy can be defined as the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, livelihoods, better jobs, the health of ocean ecosystems, covering interrelated and emerging activities such as fisheries, tourism, maritime transportation, external renewable energy coastal, and ocean activities [2]. Blue Economy aims to promote economic growth, improve life and society without compromising the environmental sustainability of the oceans and coastal areas as marine resources are limited and its physical condition has been affected by human action [3]. In the era of globalisation, the Blue Economy is seen to be a catalyst to improve living standards and sustainable development, especially among coastal communities. As a result, a good relationship between humans and resources in the oceans must be tightly controlled to ensure that the country continues developing and being competitive.

By emphasising the term "Blue Economy", it is important to remember that community development should occur in tandem with the passage of time. According to Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) [4], community development is the process by which people come together to take action on things that are important to them and believe that everyone should have access to health, well-being, wealth, justice and opportunity. Community development can also be defined as a normative concept, signifying the values and ethical contemplation of society, satisfying human needs, and affirming social justice, as well as promoting economic growth [5]. In this study, the concept of the blue economy is closely

related to community development in the livelihood, health, and well-being of the people. Almost all countries rely on blue economic resources (marine resources), which generate significant profits annually and contribute to the formation of developing and developed countries. As stated by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) [6], between 1995 and 2017, the total percentage of employment in fisheries and aquaculture increased every year, especially in developing countries where small-scale fishing is the primary source of income for coastal communities.

Nevertheless, there are challenges faced in the blue economy as they are caused by human actions and have a negative impact on marine resources and ocean activities. The unsustainable extraction of marine resources, such as overfishing, as a result of unmanaged technological improvements to fish stocks and increased demand from the general public [2]. Additionally, proper documentation of ocean activities or marine resources is still lacking, particularly among modern society, owing to a lack of awareness about their importance [7]. Aside from that, community development does not have a high public profile, and there is little knowledge about a specific field of work that is designed to address social exclusion and promote community empowerment [8]. In this study, community development can be defined as a planned effort to build assets that increase the capacity of the population and improve the quality of life of the community. These assets include several forms of community capital namely social, financial, environmental, and cultural. This situation indicates that a study is required to determine the relationship between ocean activities and community development, as well as to assess the concept of blue economy in its various forms. Therefore, the objective of the study is to examine the relationship between the blue economy and community development towards improving living standards and livelihoods.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Table 1 shows the keywords used in this study to find articles on the topic. This search string is being used to identify potentially relevant articles that will be reviewed and used as study material for this study. Specifically, two large databases which are Scopus and Web of Science were used in this study.

Table 1. Search string used in the selected database

Database	String
Scopus	TITLE-ABS-KEY ((“blue economy”) AND (“sustainable” OR “communit* development”))
Web of Science	TS= ((“blue economy”) AND (“sustainable” OR “communit* development”))

This study also employs the data search method, which is illustrated in Table 2, to determine the inclusion and exclusion criteria that have been established. Inclusion refers to a feature that was included and selected for this study, whereas Exclusion refers to a feature that was excluded and did not appear in the article search. Only articles that were published between 2017 and 2022 were considered for inclusion. The type of articles that was chosen is a research articles that contains empirical data. The field of study of the selected articles is the field of social sciences only such as business, management, and economics. Articles from all over the world were chosen, and for this study, only articles written in English and available (open access) were considered.

Table 2. Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Criterion	Inclusion	Exclusion
Timeline	2017- 2022	2016 and earlier
Subject area	Social sciences	Medical, engineering, other non-social science studies
Document type	Article	Review article, Chapter in book, Conference proceeding, etc.
Source type	Journal	Book, etc.
Open access	All open access	Non-open access
Language	English	Non-English

Three major stages comprise the systematic review process in selecting some relevant articles for this study: identification of relevant articles, screening of those articles for relevance, and eligibility determination.

2.1 Identification

The first step is to identify the keywords, which is then followed by the process of identifying related terms and phrases. Accordingly, after all relevant keywords had been identified and successfully determined, search strings for the Scopus and Web of Science databases were selected for use. A total of 535 articles were discovered as a result of the use of the two databases. Articles obtained from the database should be related to the context of the study which is Blue Economy and Community Development.

2.2 Screening

Following that, the article search proceeded with the Screening process against the two databases, which was then completed. The screening process is carried out in accordance with the keywords listed above, and an evaluation of each article is carried out based on the abstract as well as the content found within the article. The first criterion that is selected is that the article is published in a journal that is a research article because it is the primary source of empirical data. Additionally, 85 articles have been identified as a result of the screening process, and they have the potential to be used as the context of the study. Articles such as book chapters and conference proceedings were excluded from consideration for this study. In this study, book chapters and proceedings are not included. This is due to the reasons that there are book chapters and proceedings that may not go through the peer review process. In addition, there are some research findings and discussions in book chapters and proceedings that are not as thorough as journal articles. In terms of publication purposes, journal articles are more difficult to publish and go through a more stringent process by reviewers and publishers. Therefore, in order to facilitate this study to be carried out well, this study chose to only include journal articles.

2.3 Eligibility

Following that, this study will continue with the eligibility process in order to evaluate articles that have such potential in greater depth in terms of methodology, results, and findings. According to the information gathered from the databases, there are 9 articles in Scopus and 11 articles in Web of Science that are eligible for inclusion in this systematic review.

However, there are 8 duplicate articles that have been found in both databases. This study has selected 15 journal articles as a systematic review. This is because only 15 articles are appropriate to be included and discussed in this study which is about the blue economy and community development. This study has been reviewed in detail and comprehensively according to the scope of the study. In a systematic literature review, the quantity of articles included is not a priority, but the quality of the articles and study outcomes are the main pillars. Therefore, only 15 articles were selected for this study. At this stage, the most crucial aspects of each article, such as the title, abstract, and main content, have been thoroughly reviewed to ensure that they meet the criteria and are suitable for use in this study in order to achieve the objectives of the study. The process of selection, analysis, and reporting is illustrated in Figure 1.

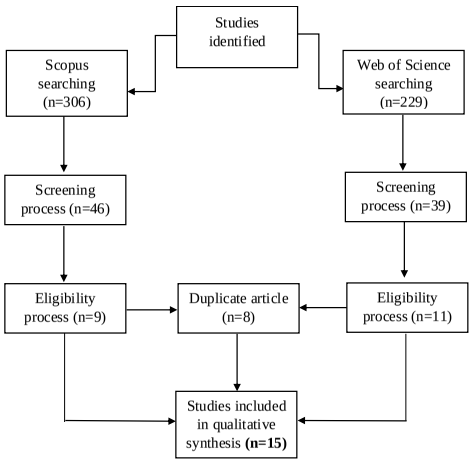


Figure 1. Process of selection, analysis, and reporting

3. RESULTS

This study conducted an integrative review, which is a type of review in which the articles analysed and synthesised data from a wide range of research designs, including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods studies. After going through the process of reading and researching the entire article, this research discovered that there are three themes that can be discerned from the content of article. The three themes are coastal resources, employment and society, and policy governance. Themes are formed as a result of the analysis of several articles that have similarities in terms of the findings of the study. The process of developing an appropriate theme was carried out based on thematic analysis. The thematic analysis aims to identify themes, i.e., patterns in data that are important or interesting, and use these themes to address research or say something about an issue [9]. This is more than just summarising analytical data, a good thematic can be interpreted and easily understood.

The first phase in the theme development process is data compilation. In this phase, the study carefully analysed a group of 15 selected articles to extract statements or data that were relevant to the objectives of the study. In the next phase, this study creates meaningful groups through coding methods according to the nature of the data. In other words, this phase converts raw data into usable data through the identification of themes, concepts or ideas. The first theme in this study is coastal resources, the second theme is employment & society, and the third theme is policy governance. These three themes are closely related and have a relationship between the blue economy and community development as the findings of the study of 15 articles. Therefore, the findings of the study are illustrated in Table 3 as follows:

Table 3. Findings of the study

No.	Author	Research Title	Research Design	Sample/Population	Findings
1	[10]	Seaweeds for the Sustainable Blue Economy Development: A Study from the South East Coast of Bangladesh	QT	Seaweed farmers, researchers, local community and entrepreneurs	Farmers are currently practicing long-line and horizontal net methods for seaweed farming in the southeast coastal region, and economically profitable. For expansion, a proper value chain, farm monitoring systems, development of seaweed-derived products, smooth seed supply, and information hubs are required.
2	[11]	Developing Blue Economy in Depok West Java, Indonesia: opportunities and Challenges of Neon Tetra fish Cultivation	QL	DKP3, Researchers from BRIN, Government, Fish Cultivation Group, and Community Empowerment Institution	The relevant Dinas should support local policies based on nature identification that are strengthened at the national level. The findings of the SWOT analysis, which is in quadrant 1, indicate that POKDAKAN (Fish Cultivation Group) is in a position for a somewhat aggressive expansion.
3	[12]	Ocean resource use: building the coastal blue economy	QL	New Zealand and Myanmar - case studies	It is necessary to work together to conserve and preserve the marine environment in an equitable manner, as well as to gain the cooperation of local communities that rely on coastal ecosystems for their long-term survival.
4	[13]	China’s Blue Economy: A State Project of Modernisation	QL	284 documents	China's blue economy vision is primarily concerned with how the blue economy can contribute to the country's goal of economic growth while simultaneously improving living standards.
5	[14]	Blue revitalisation or dispossession? Reform of common resource	QL	Fishermen/Coastal communities	A case in point is the ongoing transformation of Japan's fisheries policy, which demonstrates the shift from small-

		management in Japanese small-scale fisheries			scale common resources and community resources to industrial policy while also exhibiting threats to local small-scale fisheries that are inherent in the Blue Economy programme.
6	[15]	Marketing and branding strategy for the South Baltic Sea Region: reinforcing regional innovation in SMEs through cross-border collaboration models in the age of transformation	MM	130 surveyed SMEs sector	The findings of the study contribute to the growing need to incorporate social dimensions and strengthen the Blue Growth discourse through the lens of social science disciplines such as marketing and branding.
7	[16]	A contribution to the sustainable development of maritime transport in the context of blue economy: The case of Montenegro	QL	Documents	There are numerous relevant documents that point to the lack of identified sectors and institutional structures, as well as relevant databases to review the current situation in the Blue Economy sector and scientific monitoring of marine resource management in the ocean.
8	[17]	Tourism-Based Alternative Livelihoods for Small Island Communities Transitioning towards a Blue Economy	QL	31 participants - government workers, private sector and local communities	Specifically, it identifies some critical insights for research and policy in the area of promoting sustainable livelihoods for small island communities in the context of a broader governance shift toward integrated marine planning and the development of a blue economy.
9	[18]	The blue economy as a boundary object for hegemony across scales	MM	29 respondents -fisheries, economic development, tourism, conservation, and environment sector	These findings investigate the blue economy's ascendance to a position of dominance, as well as how proponents of the concept maintain and use power to ensure that it remains relevant in the future.
10	[19]	Planning for sustainability: An emerging blue economy in russia's coastal arctic?	MM	Coastal urban communities – 23 coastal/port urban	In most urban development plans, the problem of the Blue Economy is not adequately addressed; instead, cities and coastal regions prioritise only port infrastructure and related services as important priorities.
11	[20]	Impact of blue economy factors on economic growth in the SAARC countries	QT	World Development Indicators (World Bank), Food and Agriculture Organization, and National Accounts (OECD) - secondary data	The blue economy contributes significantly to the country's economic growth statistically and helps achieve sustainable development by conserving and utilising marine resources while also providing employment opportunities.
12	[21]	Blue economy: Community case studies addressing the poverty-environment nexus in ocean and coastal management	QL	Coastal communities (China, Samoa, and Vietnam) – 3 case studies	It highlights several blue economic community practises that have successfully coordinated ocean and marine ecosystem protection while safeguarding community livelihoods and addressing the challenges associated with poverty-environmental relations in coastal communities.
13	[22]	'Re-grabbing' marine resources: a blue degrowth agenda for the resurgence of small-scale fisheries in Malta	QL	170 participants (fishing communities)	The resilience of the fisheries sector is not given sufficient attention as the sector is strictly managed through fisheries ecological-economic strategies that do not understand the viability constraints and needs of the small-scale fisheries sector.
14	[23]	Blue economy discourses and practices: reconfiguring ocean spaces in the Philippines	MM	363 documents, 35 interviews (academician and local governments)	The discourse and practice of the blue economy have facilitated the emergence of 'blue growth' ideals that stabilise and harness economic rationality as a means of securing social and environmental benefits.
15	[24]	Shades of blue: what do competing interpretations of the Blue Economy mean for oceans governance?	QL	Documents	The Blue Economy has the opportunity to bridge the gap between the economic opportunities provided by the oceans and the urgent need for better environmental care, protection and rehabilitation.

*****QL=Qualitative, QT=Quantitative, MM=Mixed Methods

4. MOST FREQUENTLY USED WORDS IN PREVIOUS REVIEW ARTICLES

Using wordart.com, the most common word used in these study review articles was identified (an open web software for conducting a keyword search also word cloud). According to Table 4, the words "blue" and "economy," which appear 50 and 38 times respectively, are the most frequently used words in the headline. "Review," "sustainable," "sea," and so forth come next.

Table 4. The most frequently used words in previous review articles

Terms	Number	Terms	Number
Blue	50	Coastal	13
Economy	38	Community	10
Sustainable	22	Ocean	10
Sea	15	Developing	9
Marine	13	Economic	7

The word cloud in Figure 2 was created using software, and it showed the most popular words in bigger, bolder alphabets while other, less popular, and simpler words appeared in smaller letters. The word cloud is a convenient tool for locating common terms in a challenging context, and it can be used to locate the relevant subject and keywords in publications [25].



Figure 2. Common keywords used in the articles

Theme 1: Coastal Resources

As mentioned by United Nations Environment Programme [26], coastal resources such as fish, mineral resources, and energy are important to humans, nature, and economic growth, and they are the focus of a new sustainable blue economy agenda that is gaining momentum. It is essential for human survival and livelihood that coastal resources are preserved and improved, particularly among coastal communities. Moreover, the recent global move towards developing the country's blue economic strategy underlines the growing importance placed on coastal resources in order to address the needs of a wide range of blue growth industries [12]. It is crucial to managing the sustainable development and future exploitation of overexploited coastal resources and environmental protection for the growth of the country.

The Blue Economy is considered to be a combination of socio-economic activities and development from environmental degradation and optimising the benefits that may be derived from marine resources [27]. The attitude of a country or region toward long-term prosperity that is beneficial to the well-being of all people and human beings while preserving the environment, particularly the sea, is critical to the Blue Economy. It involves the full participation and support of the community, government and other relevant sectors towards planning and observing the appropriate use of coastal resources among all parties. It is a strategy in which all stakeholders or those who benefit from marine resources work together to achieve sustainable development management of these resources.

Theme 2: Employment and Society

In Africa, the idea of a blue economy is often limited to generating income in any way necessary from a capitalist point of view, with very little consideration, if any, for the benefit of local communities or environmental conservation [28]. In this perspective, it is crucial to incorporate the needs and concerns of local communities in the concept and implementation of current and future blue economy projects as their contribution will be central to achieving social equity, community development and reducing environmental risk. The blue economy can be activated successfully if a country emphasises the connectivity of local communities, job opportunities, and environmental sustainability without prioritising one aspect over another.

Healthy oceans and coastal areas provide the basis for a variety of economic activities that generate growth and employment for local communities in terms of livelihoods and improving living standards [29]. The blue economy sector creates employment opportunities that also aims to increase innovation and investment in sustainable technologies by supporting early-stage businesses, small and medium enterprises especially for coastal communities that are fully dependent on such related sectors. Furthermore, direct employment in the Blue Economy is estimated to be 80 million people, with approximately 60 million people employed in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, of which more than half are employed in small-scale operations and capture fisheries [30].

Theme 3: Policy Governance

The blue economy has gained significant international traction and is closely associated with hegemonic environmental governance regimes around the world [18]. It creates an interesting sense of progressive change that benefits the economic, environmental, and social dimensions simultaneously. Blue governance as a formal and informal process of collective decision-making, planning, discussion and capacity building by governments, markets and civil society related to the marine and coastal environment [31]. Specifically, it seeks to increase public understanding of the strategies employed by the public in response to social, economic, and environmental change by addressing the issue of sustainability in governance.

Information will be gathered through consultations with policymakers from various countries on their knowledge and perceptions of the relationship between sustainable ocean use and improving community living standards. This will help to gain an understanding of the factors that will lead to change in society and policies to work together to improve the issues present in the blue economy. Ocean governance is mandated to promote and coordinate the use of livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, and wildlife as resources for human well-being and economic development, to enhance sectoral governance and maximise sustainable contributions to food security, livelihoods, and wealth creation [32].

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The objective of the study which is to examine the relationship between the blue economy and community development towards improving living standards and livelihoods has been achieved. Findings from the systematic review show that there is a connection between local communities, ocean governance, employment opportunities, and sustainable use of marine resources. The blue economy cannot be achieved without the aspects that have been discussed in this study because it is an important component in shaping the well-being of the blue economy and improving living standards as well as a livelihood among the local community.

In several aspects that have been evaluated and reviewed in this study, it can be seen that the blue economy is highly dependent on the cooperation of local communities in preserving the environmental treasures in developing sustainable development for the country. This is because coastal communities are especially more involved in blue economic sectors such as fisheries, maritime, and aquaculture. Therefore, the community must have the courage to venture into the field of ocean activities because it is one of the main contributors to sustainable economic growth. The good practices practised by the communities involved with the blue economy need to be continued to remain relevant, especially among the generations, to continue sustainable consumption among the people.

In addition, the stakeholders who manage the governance of the oceans have a great impact on the change of a component to a new economic concept that can be a catalyst for economic growth. However, the literature review found that there are people who are unaware of the changes or existence that occur in the blue economic sector because they are not informed by the governance. This matter needs to be discussed in more depth to get the opinion of the community directly involved so that there are no difficulties among the authorities and the local community. This study has recommendations for a quantitative approach to be used in future research, as most of this literature uses qualitative data. Qualitative data in the current literature can assist in providing a more valid follow-up by taking a more in-depth approach whereby it can offer reliable information or can be reproduced through the time change. Quantitative data can also be helpful in terms of statistical data that can be seen of the variables available in the context of the study. Other variables such as environmental factors, gender differences and age factors can also be studied further in the context of Malaysia to see the relationship between community development and the blue economy.

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