

Regional Innovation Model as an Acceleration Strategy Economic Growth in Blitar City

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Abstract

The Digital Economy has been established as a development strategy for Blitar City in 2021-2026 in the future. This is also supported by the desire to advance competitiveness in the economic sector as stated in the theme of the development of the City of Blitar in 2020, namely "Utilizing Regional Economic Competitiveness Supported by Human Resources Management and Apparatus". The determination of the development theme was motivated by development problems such as increasing poverty rates, increasing unemployment, income inequality (Blitar City Profile 2018, Bappeda). In addition, the local government of Blitar City is also faced with the problem of the lack of good governance due to the lack of integration among OPD (Regional Apparatus Organizations). Therefore, in dealing with these problems, the local government of Blitar City applies a strategy based on digital information to the people of Blitar City. In developing innovation, the local government of Blitar City designed an application that covers public services by providing information systems in the form of urban village services, population services, employment services, and licensing services. The development of this innovation is also a development strategy for the local government of Blitar City to realize a Smart City-based city.

Keywords

regional innovation;
development; economic growth

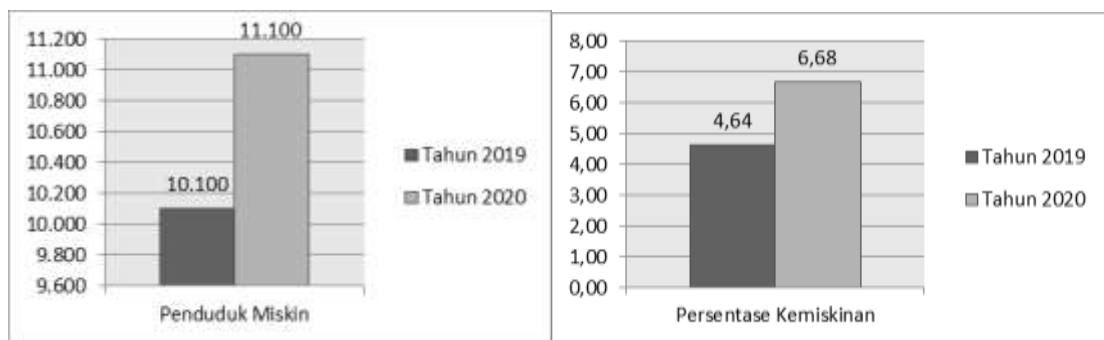


I. Introduction

Local governments as policymakers are always required to carry out reforms in various sectors (Oktaviyani dan Nugraha, 2018). Renewal is a step that is a must for local governments in improving public services. Public service innovation is one of the important factors in realizing quality governance (Wismanu et al., 2018). The complexity of the demands and needs of the community is a development priority for local governments so that they can move the economic sector evenly through public service innovations.

Changes in various sectors, especially in the current economy, cannot be separated from the advancement of the use of technology and information systems. The application of technological innovation is increasingly developing and contributing to the acceleration of economic growth and increasing regional competitiveness (Harakan & Tahir, 2018). The use of technology as a regional development strategy, apart from aiming to encourage the economy, will also increase the capability of the local government itself. The principles of good governance that are formed through the innovation process will encourage the values of organizational culture to be more valuable (Matridi et al., 2021). In the context of governance, innovation will be needed in aligning policies and as a fulfillment of community demands to reinforce a wider spectrum in the public sector. (Sururi, 2019). A change from a public policy through innovation must be interpreted as a novelty value and has benefits for regional development.

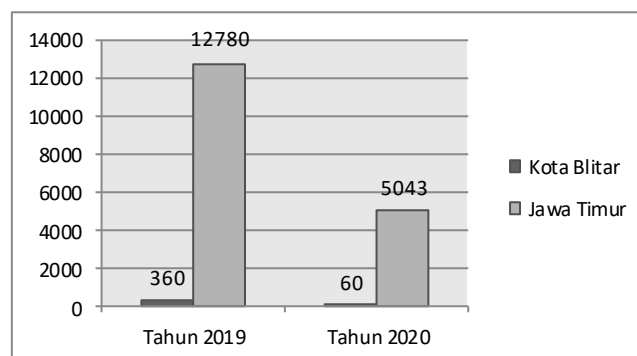
The application of innovation in the local government order has referred to the law regulated in the UU No. 23 the Year 2014 concerning Regional Government which reads "in the context of improving the performance of the implementation of Regional Government, Regional Governments can innovate". In line with these regulations Matrudi et al., (2021) said that what is meant by innovation in the administration of government is an activity with the principle of improving service quality and increasing efficiency and effectiveness. Therefore, improving the quality of public services requires serious efforts and actions from the local government through innovative breakthroughs made so that the impact on the welfare of the community will increase. (Wicaksono, 2019). In addition to referring to the regional government structure, the enactment of the regional autonomy authority policy in 1999 had the aim of making each region compete with each other and seek to improve the quality of regional performance. (Atidira & Priyono, 2020).



Source: LKJ Pemerintah Kota Blitar Tahun 2020

Figure 1. Number of Poor Population and Percentage of Unemployment in Blitar City in 2019 and 2020

In implementing the 2020 development in Blitar City, the local government has set the development theme "Utilizing Regional Economic Competitiveness supported by HR Management and Apparatus Professionalism". The determination of the development theme is motivated by development problems such as increasing poverty rates, increasing unemployment, income inequality. (Profil Kota Blitar 2018, Bappeda). In addition, the local government of Blitar City is also faced with the problem of lack of inadequate governance due to lack of integration among OPD (Regional Apparatus Organizations). Therefore, in dealing with these problems, the local government of Blitar City applies a strategy based on digital information to the people of Blitar City.



Source: Research and Development Agency of the Ministry of Home Affairs

Figure 2. Comparison of the Innovation Index in Blitar City and East Java Province 2019 and 2020

Innovation according to Wicaksono, (2019) has a meaning as a concept related to novelty in the process of creation and the results will have positive implications and impacts for policy formulation. In-Law No. 19 of 2002, innovation is an activity that includes research & development aimed at applying practical values and new knowledge. The innovation process is always carried out with aspects that can be modified and are expected to provide real implications for development policies. Therefore, from the description above, this study aims to answer research questions regarding how the implementation of innovations carried out by the local government of Blitar City can increase regional economic growth as well as a strategy towards Smart City and Smart Governance.

II. Review of Literature

2.1 Implementation of Regional Innovation

Community welfare can be achieved by implementing responsive policies and specifically providing space for the community to develop so that it will have a good influence on the public policy paradigm. (Sururi, 2019). In meeting these demands, interactions that involve direct community participation are needed through a process of activities that can provide benefits for various parties, therefore from the beginning public policymaking has been prepared to serve the needs of the community. The government as a policymaker certainly wants maximum results in creating a program, therefore in making a policy or program, the government is always required to continue to innovate.

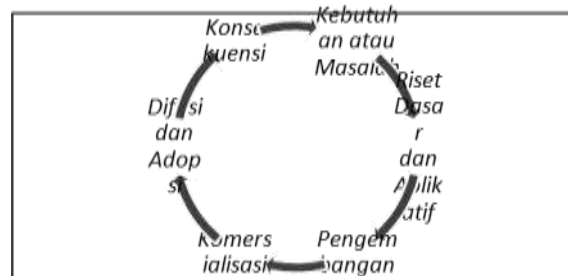
Innovation itself is defined as novelty both from the process of creation, results so that it can have positive implications for each person (Wicaksono, 2019). In encouraging economic growth, each region is always required to innovate as a way to improve and restore economic stability (Dekki Umamur Ra's & Rohman, 2020.) Innovation is the main force for development, therefore each region can face the obstacles and challenges that are the limitations of the region itself. Moreover, the uncertain global situation and conditions, the government is also required to always be adaptive in responding to the times. Therefore, innovative breakthroughs are needed to meet the needs of each.

2.2 The Relationship between Innovation and Regional Economic Growth

The authority of the regional government in regulating regional development affairs that have been given by the central government provides the freedom to plan and carry out regional development (Rahayu, 2019). This is related to regional autonomy which is seen as capable of advancing, becoming independent, and maturing the scope of regional governments in regulating their territory (Setiawan, 2017). Independent regional autonomy is an area that can explore its resource potential into a leading sector and manage it into an income or income for the community. Changing the potential of the region into a leading sector that is expected to provide economic income, of course, requires innovation.

Undang-Undang No. 11 Tahun 2019 has explained that Innovation is a research and development activity that aims to practically apply new scientific values that can provide economic and social benefits to society. Oktaviyani & Nugraha (2018) also explained that innovation is a system that can bring together institutions and individuals to develop and implement new technologies that will also directly provide jobs, the application of technology diffusion will also make the government enforce new policies that will also influence the innovation process.

Suparno, (2017) in his research revealed that the purpose of establishing an innovation system for the region is to be able to efficiently empower all potentials to produce improvements in the growth sector of all sectors, especially the economy. Economic growth will certainly increase regional competitiveness, so to maintain this sustainability, protection or protection of the local economic sector is needed. In addition, innovation will create a conducive investment climate to attract investors. Sustainable and efficient development goals can be achieved if innovation planning is carried out with adequate readiness, local governments must understand the cycle in developing innovation. The cycle and innovation development has been revealed by Suwarno, (2008) in his book entitled Innovation in the Public Sector as described below:



Source: Innovation in the Public Sector, Suwarno (2008)

Figure 3. Innovation Cycle and Development

The emergence of innovation can be explained through the theory of innovation development. A problem and need will initiate the formation of innovation. Innovation will appear when amid people's lives a problem or need is found that can press them and provide an impetus to solve the problem. Problems and needs can be identified through a political process that will see social problems as a priority for the research agenda (Suwarno, 2008).

2.3 Regional Innovation Model in Building Smart City and Smart Governance

Smart City is a concept that aims to solve and deal with every problem and answer efforts to meet the needs that exist in the region or city so that it is hoped that it will create a harmonious livable city for the community in the future. (Mursalim, 2017). Individuals in their development will always want a quality life, therefore a livable city is a dream for everyone to step up to a better level. Developed regions or cities are characterized by the availability of competitive and quality human resources, applied science and technology in all sectors, controlled population growth, and increased community welfare, especially in the economic sector. Development is a change towards improvement. Changes towards improvement require the mobilization of all human resources and reason to realize what is aspired (Shah et al, 2020).

Regional development needs the government's role in regulating the important factors that will become the main capital in regional planning and development. Good and advanced technology planning and implementation processes will encourage job creation, access to education for everyone, equitable infrastructure development, run the wheels of industry in every sector, and will indirectly shape the quality of excellent public services and create a sense of security for everyone.

III. Research Method

The method used in this research is a qualitative approach. The location of this research is in Blitar City, East Java Province. The reason for choosing this location is because in 2019 and 2020 the City of Blitar received a low Innovation Achievement Index score, but the City of Blitar is committed to showing its seriousness in developing innovation programs as evidenced by winning 3 awards in the Inotek Award (IA) at the East Java Province level in the last year 2021. The City of Blitar has also begun to introduce innovative programs to the public through social media, thus the implications of the Blitar City innovation model can provide new opportunities for economic growth which had declined sharply in 2020. The object of this research is the Blitar City Government and Regional Apparatus Organizations (Blitar City Government). OPD). In this study, the authors conducted interviews (in-depth interviews) with key informants. The chosen key informant is someone who has the main source of information and has direct knowledge of the object of research. After that, the author will review other supporting documents. Data analysis was also carried out by giving interpretations of the statements given by key informants.

IV. Results and Discussion

4.1 Implementation of Innovation in Blitar City

The city of Blitar has regulated the implementation of regional innovations as stated in the Peraturan Walikota Blitar Nomor 3 Tahun 2018 on Governance of Information and Communication Technology in the Government of Blitar City. The Mayor's Regulation explains that the use of information and communication technology within the Blitar City Government must be carried out by applying the principles of being integrated, effective, efficient, sustainable, and sustainable to improve the quality of services to the community. This regulation that has been enacted since 2018 indicates that the City of Blitar will become an area that is ready to develop innovations. The implementation of innovation in Blitar City itself has developed three innovation applications consisting of digital applications and websites.

Table 1. Three Main Applications of Blitar City Government Innovation as Economic Support

No.	Service Name	Description
1.	SILPUSITRON (Sistem Informasi Layanan Publik Terintegrasi Secara Elektronik)	The management of incoming and outgoing letters in the Blitar City Government agency is still done manually and requires a long process because it is not every time the officials/leaders are in the workspace to do the disposition of letters. This application is a solution to administrative problems in the Blitar City Government agency environment. The service developed by the Office of Communication, Information, and Statistics (Diskominfotik) is in the form of a digital application and can be accessed through a web page.
2.	RPH DIMORO RAMAH HEWAN	The Dimoro Slaughterhouse (RPH) in Blitar City has implemented the latest innovations for slaughtering animals using the restraining box method/tool. With

		this method, animal slaughter becomes more effective & efficient. The existence of this tool also provides friendly treatment to animals so that it has an impact on increasing the quality and quantity of meat produced. This innovation in addition to providing services to partners/service users will also increase direct meat sales in the City of Blitar and East Java.
3.	Website Marketplace <i>blitarshop.com</i>	Most of the business actors in Blitar City still market their products directly and have not taken advantage of the latest developments in information and communication technology, so sales revenue has decreased drastically, especially during the pandemic. Therefore, the Blitar City government has developed an online buying and selling website that can be accessed by the entire community through the http://blitarshop.com page. The existence of this website as a means to market products online that can reach a wider market. The existence of this marketplace can encourage the productive spirit of the community in developing their business.

Source: Blitar City OPD Innovation Compilation, Bappeda in 2019

Utilization of Technology, Information and Communication (ICT) in Blitar City is used to collect, prepare, store, process, and disseminate news and innovations carried out (Perwali Kota Blitar, 2016). The application of ICT is also a step for the City of Blitar in forming an e-government system because ICT itself is now often referred to as digitalization. The implementation of E-Government itself is a form of efficient, effective, transparent, and accountable government administration that has been regulated in the Peraturan Walikota Blitar Nomor 45 Tahun 2013 on the development of e-government within the Blitar City Government. The provision of digital-based public services began to be carried out by the Blitar City government several years earlier, this digital service is expected to be able to change the old system into a new, fast, and responsive system. The use of digitalization in the application of innovation in the City of Blitar is carried out because it refers to the Vision of the Mayor of Blitar as stated in Regional Regulation Number 4 of 2021 which regulates Information Technology-Based Government, as well as the theme of digital-based economic development, as said by Mr. Gigih Mardana that:

“...But why then is technology a special emphasis because the first thing in his vision, Mr. Mayor in Perda number 4 of 2021, the emphasis is on information technology-based government.”

Furthermore, he also added:

“Our economic strategy in 2010-2015 is about the people's economy. then from 2016 to 2020, the strategy is the creative economy. So in 2021 to 2026 our economic strategy is the digital economy, where this economy still involves the community”

Furthermore, the informant also said that the implementation of digitalization in the public service system in Blitar City was also intended as an impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is conveyed as:

“So why do we use the digital economy? considering that there is currently a pandemic, we think that digital or online will make it easier to organize so that crowds or

community interactions can be done online. So innovation is still being carried out but by following the process”.

The implementation of innovation in Blitar City prioritizes online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This also shows the consistency of the Blitar City Government in maintaining the health protocol rules. Blitar city itself is the city with the first rank in handling Covid-19 and has entered the status of level 1 PPKM Emergency.

The implementation of innovation in Blitar City is of course also driven by several policies. The policy involves government institutions known as Regional Apparatus Organizations (OPD). Innovation in Blitar City focuses more on the government and community sectors. Starting in 2021, through the direction of the Regional Secretary, every OPD is required to have at least one innovation program, this was conveyed directly by the informant:

“Innovation is encouraged through several policies, the first of which is a policy in the form of issuing institutions related to innovation in the government sector, then also encouraging innovation in the community sector. then the inside is given by the emphasis Mr. Secretary to innovate at least one innovation in each OPD”.

In addition to implementing institutional policies, the City of Blitar also encourages innovation in the social sector. One of them is by holding a Technology Innovation Competition (InoTek) which is open to the public. This competition is held every year. The fields of competition include Technology, Food, and Energy Security, for the winner of the Innotek Blitar City competition, they will be sent to the IT competition event at the East Java Province level. This is according to what was conveyed by the informant:

“Then there are those who are encouraged by the community through the implementation of competitions every year which are called technological innovation competitions. There are several fields that you may already know about, first in the IT field, the second in the food sector, then in the energy security sector. and the Blitar City government itself encourages the community through the provision of stimuli in the form of an event which is then added with prizes. and for the winner, the winner will be sent to represent the City of Blitar in the implementation of the IT competition at the East Java province-level”.

4.2 Increasing Economic Growth through Innovation Programs in Blitar City

One of the main assets in achieving development goals is the economic potential and regional conditions that must be owned by a region in improving people's welfare (Puspitawati, 2013). For the development targets to be achieved properly, it is necessary to have an economic development plan and strategy that is right on target and can support the potential of resources owned by an area. (Hutabarat, 2020).

To achieve the goal of increasing community welfare, regional development as part of strategic planning of national development is carried out following resource arrangements and the principles of regional autonomy (Basuki and Gayatri, 2009). Therefore, the government and the community must take the initiative and synergize together when carrying out regional development. In its implementation, local governments must seek to utilize the use of resources properly to encourage community welfare in increasing economic growth.

Each region certainly has the potential for economic strength that comes from natural wealth and the quality of human resources (Hutabarat, 2020). Therefore, strategic policies from the government are needed to regulate the potential of regional resources and reduce the level of disparity between regions. In carrying out development, local government policies will lead to regional economic growth and development between regions as a

strategic step in development (Puspitawati, 2013). Every economic development policy that will be implemented must be adapted to the conditions of the area concerned (Basuki and Gayatri, 2009). This condition certainly includes the economic potential, needs, and regional problems.

The current Blitar City Government continues to make various efforts to realize economic growth by improving the quality of services to the community. The efforts made by the Blitar City Government in managing and distributing public services are also encouraged by the latest advances in information technology. To realize the priority development agenda, the Blitar City Government always prioritizes transparency and performance accountability to produce quality governance and can have an impact on the quality of public services. Kurniawan, (2017) explained that public service has the definition of providing services to the community based on needs or those who have an interest in related institutions according to applicable regulations. The community will continue to demand quality from bureaucratic services over time, effective, efficient, and easy service in the process is a dream for every individual. If public services are increasingly adequate and well, it will encourage the community to improve their abilities and encourage creativity so that it will have an equitable development impact in each region. This is an important note for all government agencies, especially those that deal directly with the community in providing public services to make improvements or improvements to regulations to make it easier to provide services to the community.

The Blitar City Government has shown seriousness in improving public services. The innovations that have been carried out by the OPD in Blitar City are certainly real steps taken by the Blitar City Government to bring change to the development of Blitar City itself, although some innovations are still in the development stage, Blitar City has received several national awards for innovations in development. done area. Blitar City as one of the areas that prioritize the quality of development, in its implementation, has received several awards as evidence of government performance that has been carried out in the past few years. When viewed from an economic point of view, the innovations carried out by the Blitar City government have made it easier to administer permits and help local MSMEs. One of the applications that have been implemented in urban and sub-districts is SILPUSITRON (Electronically Integrated Public Service Information System) which is widely felt to be able to bring convenience in various accesses, this is following what was stated by Bpk. Iwan as Sukorejo Village staff:

“Now the service is very easy and fast, in the past, the management had to be done like for example in the Civil Service Office, but now if you want to take care of letters, whether it's licensing, population and others, the community only needs to go to the village, later we will continue through the application”.

This statement shows that the community has easy access to administrative services. The service becomes fast and efficient because it only passes through one door that can support all management activities. If administrative management such as urban village services, population, employment, and licensing can be managed appropriately, quickly, and in an integrated manner. With online management, people who especially own or are managing a business such as trading will not lose a long time in handling letters. So that people will not be burdened with time efficiency. In addition, with the ease of licensing, developing community businesses can be accommodated by the government directly. Mr. Timur as district empowerment staff. Sananwetan also conveys the same thing:

“The benefits of digitization are very helpful, especially for people who may be working workers or traders who find it difficult to leave what place, now with this digitization it can be easier to determine the time”.

The ease of application that is felt by stakeholders such as kelurahan and sub-districts is also felt by the community directly. One of them was revealed by Mr. Irul, a user of the SILPUSITRON application in Sananwetan Village:

"I've always taken care of letters in this village because my business does require a signature from the village head, Ms. In the past, it was difficult, sis, the service took so long, you had to wait for days. If it's good now because there is SILPUSITRO, so it's fast".

In addition to service management, the innovations carried out by the Blitar City Government have also penetrated other fields such as Information Technology, Food Security, and Energy Availability. In the field of food security, the innovation that has received an award is the provision of Slaughterhouses (RPH) with a modern system. RPH itself has been developed by the Department of Food Security and Agriculture of Blitar City. Mr. Persistently says that:

"...The one who has received appreciation is the food security and agriculture service which creates tools for slaughtering animals at the RPH so that the animals do not get sick before slaughtering it is easy to slaughter in an animal way".

RPH is one of the innovations of the Blitar City Government in the field of food security, with the RPH system, animals will be slaughtered using a Restraining Box without pain and later have good meat quality. RPH innovation can win the Technology Innovation competition at the national and provincial levels. And with RPH, people can enjoy quality meat and have no trouble finding a slaughterhouse with modern facilities. This certainly affects people's welfare in consumption. One of the indicators of welfare can be measured by consumption, according to BPS data from the City of Blitar in 2020 the average expenditure on animal meat consumption increased to Rp. 23,260 from the previous only Rp. 20,878 in 2019. Apart from increasing consumption, this will also be an opportunity for livestock entrepreneurs in Blitar City to export meat commodities that can reach outside Blitar City. This benefit can be felt directly by the community as described by Bpk. Rodin as a Dimoro RPH user:

"It's good, Ms. at this RPH, I have 5 cows at home, so who wants to cut the cow big like that, and I can't cut it myself. Anyway, at this RPH, the cows are guaranteed, the meat is good, the quality is good".

In addition to having innovations in the food and administrative fields, Blitar City also has innovations in the trade sector. As a supporting sector for the economy of Blitar City, the trade sector also occupies the largest position in the GRDP structure of Blitar City (BPS Kota Blitar, 2021). In 2017 the trade sector was able to contribute 81% of GRDP. In 2018 the GRDP of Blitar City is Rp. 1,116.64 billion, then increased in 2019 to Rp. 1,190.38 billion. However, due to the impact of the pandemic in 2020, the GRDP of the trade sector was only able to contribute Rp. 1,110.56 billion. This decline has made the Blitar City Government innovate in the trade sector by creating a blitarshop.com marketplace website. The potential of the trade sector must be seriously empowered considering that the trade sector is a sector that supports the economy of Blitar City. By procuring a website, business actors have a platform to promote their products through information and communication technology to reach a wider market so that the trade sector in Blitar City can survive and recover from previous adversity. The ease of having this website was felt by several service users, namely Mr. Ari:

"It's easy to use this application, Ms. if it's now facilitated by the government, it's good, all you have to do is enter a photo, then the buyer just comes and takes the pecel sauce".

The ease of use of this website is also supported by Mrs. Siti's statement that:

“I used this application recently, Ms., the city government people also just introduced it. I am selling snacks first, only through shops and WhatsApp. There is this blitarshop, my sales are so good, just click, click, an ad appears immediately, some buyers contact me directly”.

In line with the implementation of innovation, the success of the Blitar City Government in implementing innovation is also supported by the achievement of the Government Agency Performance Accountability System (SAKIP) with the BB category which means that the performance achievement of the Blitar City Government is quite good. The achievement of SAKIP performance by the Blitar City Government is also driven by high demands from the community for the implementation of good governance including public information disclosure, public accountability, public services, and strengthening community participation in governance. Through the SAKIP assessment, the government can measure government performance, align finances with performance, regulate management functions based on the main tasks and functions by looking at the work indicators that have been set. This is also supported by the target of the Community Satisfaction Index (IKM) which has a value of 82% in 2018 (Blitar City RKPD, 2018). Then in 2019, the Population and Civil Registration Office of Blitar City conducted a community satisfaction survey and the final results obtained reached a value of 82.96% in the good category. The Office of Communication, Information, and Statistics of the City of Blitar also conducted a community satisfaction survey and obtained a score of 78.58% which was in the good category.

The achievements obtained by the City of Blitar are things that must be maintained by the local government. Community satisfaction with the services provided will give the community trust so that the community will also feel that they have taken part in the development process. When the community and government synergize with each other, it will create quality development that can bring prosperity to the people of Blitar City itself

V. Conclusion

The concept of innovation can be interpreted as the value of novelty and process-oriented in creating new ideas to answer every problem and overcome the demand for the fulfillment of human needs. Innovation can be successful if it is proven to be able to provide positive implications and impacts on the environment and institutions, especially the community in an area. The innovations carried out by the Blitar City Government refer to Regional Regulation Number 4 of 2021 which regulates Information Technology-Based Government. The Blitar City Government emphasizes each OPD to always innovate. In addition to regulating innovation policies, the City Government of Blitar City also empowers the community to continue to innovate by holding technology competition events that can bring Blitar City to compete in provincial and national events.

Smart City is a concept that will bring progress to modernization in the region so this is a challenge for the Regional Government of Blitar City in carrying out governance. The implementation of Smart City is expected to have a positive effect on people who can bring social and economic prosperity. The three main applications developed by the Blitar City Government are based on the problems and needs felt by the community themselves. The SILPUSITRON application can complete administrative management quickly, Dimoro RPH can slaughter animals quickly and has an effect on the quality of the meat produced, while the blitarshop.com website can become a forum for MSME actors in Blitar City to introduce their products widely.

The implementation of innovation in Blitar City which is quite consistent in its development is proof of a serious intention to bring Blitar City to become a Smart City-based city. The application of the latest information and communication technology in public services also provides a value for community satisfaction for the performance of the Blitar City Government, so that a harmonious public space and trust in the transparency of the Blitar City Government will be created through the implementation of innovations carried out. Building and creating a Smart City requires the same view of the smart city paradigm. In addition to the regulations that regulate, good cooperation with various parties is also needed, so that the community will also participate directly in the innovation development process. In the future, the government and the people of Blitar City must always play an active role and quickly adapt to technological changes that are increasingly developing. The Regional Government of Blitar City must also conduct socialization, appeal, and set an example to provide excellent public services in the City of Blitar. The creation of good coordination between stakeholders and the community will encourage progress in the process of implementing innovation in Blitar City.

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