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COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT IN MORELA VILLAGE, LEIHITU DISTRICT, CENTRAL MALUKU REGENCY

PARTISIPASI MASYARAKAT DALAM PELAKSANAAN PEMBANGUNAN DI NEGERI MORELA KECAMATAN LEIHITU KABUPATEN MALUKU TENGAH

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Abstract

This research was conducted in Negeri Morella Village, Leihitu District, Central Maluku Regency, with the aim of identifying and describing community participation in the implementation of development in the area. The main focus of the research is to determine the extent of community participation in the development process and to identify the factors that support and hinder such participation. Data collection was carried out using a natural setting approach, utilizing primary data sources. The methods used included observation, interviews, and documentation. The results of the study indicate that community participation in development in Negeri Morella Village is still relatively low, particularly in the planning stages of development programs and activities. Nevertheless, the local government continues to involve the community in the implementation process. Interviews revealed that some community members are less active in participating, due to personal interests and social conditions. However, there are also community members who are quite active in contributing, especially in terms of labor. Despite this, some community members are less informed about the procedures for overseeing development. The factors influencing community participation include age, gender, education level, occupation, income, and environmental conditions. This research provides important insights into community participation in development in Negeri Morella Village, as well as the factors that influence it.

Keywords: Community Participation, Village Development, Supporting Factors, Leihitu District.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini dilakukan di Desa Negeri Morella, Kecamatan Leihitu, Kabupaten Maluku Tengah, dengan tujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan mendeskripsikan partisipasi masyarakat dalam pelaksanaan pembangunan di wilayah tersebut. Fokus utama penelitian adalah untuk mengetahui sejauh mana masyarakat berpartisipasi dalam proses pembangunan, serta mengidentifikasi faktor-faktor yang mendukung dan menghambat partisipasi tersebut. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui pendekatan natural setting dengan menggunakan sumber data primer. Metode yang digunakan meliputi observasi,

wawancara, dan dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa partisipasi masyarakat dalam pembangunan di Desa Negeri Morella masih tergolong minim, terutama dalam tahap perencanaan program dan kegiatan pembangunan. Meskipun demikian, pemerintah setempat tetap melibatkan masyarakat dalam proses pelaksanaan pembangunan. Dari hasil wawancara, ditemukan bahwa sebagian masyarakat kurang aktif dalam berpartisipasi, disebabkan oleh kepentingan pribadi dan kondisi sosial. Namun, ada juga masyarakat yang cukup aktif dalam memberikan kontribusi, terutama dalam bentuk tenaga. Meski begitu, beberapa masyarakat kurang memahami prosedur pengawasan pembangunan. Faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi partisipasi masyarakat meliputi usia, jenis kelamin, tingkat pendidikan, pekerjaan, penghasilan, dan kondisi lingkungan.

Kata Kunci: Partisipasi Masyarakat, Pembangunan Desa, Faktor Pendukung, Kecamatan Leihitu.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of development, particularly in Indonesia, is deeply intertwined with the country's political and administrative systems. Development administration, which is a part of state administration, plays a crucial role as an agent of change aimed at achieving development across various sectors (Ibrahim, 2008). This relationship can be observed in the evolution of the old public administration paradigm in Indonesia, where the government dominated the development process, especially during President Soeharto's era. In this period, the government was the primary actor in monopolizing development, while the society was merely an object of the development process. This led to a centralized development approach, known as production-centered development (Nasdian, 2014). However, (Tjokroamidjojo, 1974) argued that development can only succeed if it involves the entire population of a country.

The development model that treated society as an object eventually led to the multi-crisis of 1997, which had systemic impacts, particularly on strategic issues such as poverty, unemployment, and monetary instability (Harun & Ardianto, 2011). The focus on economic achievement in development also proved unsuccessful, particularly in developing countries (Theresia et al., 2014). This situation called for a reform that strengthened the roles of the government, private sector, and society. The role of the government began to be limited, no longer monopolizing development but acting as a regulator and facilitator using entrepreneurial principles (reinventing government/privatization). This paradigm encouraged the government to adopt private sector principles, including entrepreneurship and streamlining bureaucracy (Santosa, 2008). However, this principle was misunderstood during Megawati's administration, where it was interpreted as selling state assets like Indosat, rather than transferring service functions from the public to the private sector (Korten, 1993).

On the other hand, the privatization principle, which focused on efficient output and treating society as customers, faced fundamental issues. The lower layers of society did not enjoy the expected benefits of development due to the limited role of the government and the continued treatment of society as development objects. Furthermore, social disparities widened because government investments, driven by the goal of efficient output, were directed towards purchasing production machinery, reducing the need for labor (Kuncoro, 2004).

A new paradigm is therefore needed, one that balances the roles of all stakeholders in development to achieve the ultimate goal of societal welfare. Welfare is not just about meeting basic needs such as food, clothing, and housing, but also about achieving self-reliance, dignity, and the freedom to improve quality of life without external pressure (Koentjaraningrat, 2009).

This new paradigm, known as people-centered development (Hardjasoemantri, 1986), emphasizes decentralized, participatory, empowering, sustainable, and socially networked development, aligning with the shift from government to governance. Governance (or good governance) emphasizes collaboration and balance between government, the private sector, and civil society (Asy'ari, 1993).

According to (Adisasmita, 2006), this development paradigm requires a balance between government, the private sector, and civil society. Good governance, as Laksana further notes, emphasizes the need for the government to interact constructively with society in various fields.

In Indonesia, this paradigm shift became significant post-reform, particularly after the enactment of Law No. 22 of 1999 on Regional Government, which was later replaced by Law No. 32 of 2004. This

change granted broader authority to local governments to optimize development based on local potential. This marked a significant shift from a state-centered development approach to a community-centered development approach.

However, the 2004 law did not provide detailed provisions regarding villages, leaving rural communities, who are the frontline of development, unable to proactively participate in shaping development. The success of a region, according to (Sunarto, 2005), can be measured by how well development in villages improves community welfare. Therefore, the Indonesian government introduced more detailed regulations through Government Regulation No. 72 of 2005, which addressed village authority, village government institutions, village planning, and village finances.

Based on the above discussion, it can be assumed that the success of development is due to the increasing balance in the roles of the three pillars of development: government, the private sector, and society. As explained earlier, government-dominated development leads to centralized, unequal development, while private-sector-dominated development may result in efficiency gains but also increases social disparity by reducing labor needs. Therefore, a balance between these three pillars is essential.

This research aims to explore whether society actively participates in development, particularly in the case of Negeri Morela. The selection of Negeri Morela is based on initial observations showing that physical development, such as public service facilities, is relatively well-established. However, the level of community involvement in planning seems limited, as indicated by low participation in meetings. The research will further investigate the community's role in the implementation and supervision of development activities, aiming to understand the factors affecting their participation and how it can be improved.

METHODS

The research conducted is qualitative in nature, focusing on studying phenomena within a natural setting where the researcher serves as the primary instrument. According to (Sugiyono, 2005), qualitative research involves the researcher directly interacting with the study environment. As (Moleong, 2007) notes, this approach is aimed at understanding phenomena such as behaviors, perceptions, motivations, and actions of the research subjects in a holistic manner. The data collected are described in words and language, within a specific natural context, utilizing various natural methods.

The location for this research is Negeri Morela, situated in Leihitu District, Central Maluku Regency. The research is scheduled to commence one month after the proposal seminar. The informants for this study include key figures such as the Raja (Chief) of Negeri Morela, four employees from the Negeri Morela Office, and prominent community leaders. These informants will provide critical insights related to the research issues through in-depth interviews.

In qualitative research, the researcher themselves is the main instrument, responsible for determining the research focus, selecting informants, collecting data, evaluating data quality, analyzing the data, interpreting it, and drawing conclusions. Data collection is carried out in a natural setting, relying on primary data sources. The techniques used include participant observation, where the researcher observes respondents directly, structured interviews that involve asking open-ended questions, and documentation that involves collecting and analyzing various forms of documents.

The data analysis in this qualitative study involves processing empirical data that is predominantly in the form of words rather than numbers. The analysis is done using methods that include data reduction, where field information is summarized and organized systematically. This process helps in highlighting the key points, making the data more manageable. Data presentation follows, where the data is classified and presented in tables according to the research issues, making it easier to interpret.

Finally, the process of data verification involves drawing conclusions by identifying relationships, similarities, or differences in the data. This is done by comparing the statements from the research subjects with the underlying concepts in the study. The conclusions drawn help in providing a deeper understanding of the phenomena being studied, ensuring that the findings are meaningful and relevant to the research objectives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Based on the detailed findings from the study conducted in Negeri Morella, Kecamatan Leihitu, Kabupaten Maluku Tengah, the following is a comprehensive analysis that encapsulates the key outcomes and implications of the research, structured into five key sections:

Community Participation in Development Planning

The research revealed that community participation in development planning in Negeri Morella remains significantly limited. Despite the concerted efforts by local leaders, such as the Raja of Morella, to engage the community through various meetings and discussions, the overall attendance and active involvement were notably low. This lack of engagement is a concerning issue, particularly in a context where inclusive and participatory planning is crucial for effective development.

The study emphasized that while certain groups, particularly some youth factions, demonstrated enthusiasm and actively contributed ideas during these meetings, a substantial portion of the community, including some of the elder members, chose not to participate. This disengagement is often rooted in personal interests or a prevailing perception that the development initiatives being proposed or discussed do not have a direct impact on their lives. Consequently, these individuals see little value in dedicating their time and energy to such processes.

This limited engagement has significant implications for the planning phase of development projects in Negeri Morella. The lack of broad-based community input means that the development plans may not fully capture the diverse needs and priorities of the entire community. When key segments of the population are underrepresented in these discussions, there is a risk that the decisions made will not adequately reflect the community's collective interests or address the specific challenges that different groups within the community face.

Moreover, this situation potentially undermines the effectiveness of the development projects themselves. Projects that do not account for the varied perspectives and needs of the community are more likely to encounter resistance or fail to achieve their intended outcomes. The absence of comprehensive community input can lead to a misalignment between what is planned and what is actually needed on the ground, resulting in development initiatives that are less sustainable or less impactful.

The research suggests that for development planning in Negeri Morella to be more effective, there must be a concerted effort to enhance community engagement. This could involve strategies to better communicate the relevance and potential benefits of the development projects to all segments of the community, thereby encouraging broader participation. Additionally, creating more inclusive forums for discussion where all community members feel their voices are heard and valued could help in ensuring that development plans are more representative and responsive to the community's needs.

In conclusion, while efforts have been made to involve the community in development planning in Negeri Morella, the current level of participation is insufficient. Addressing the barriers to engagement and fostering a more inclusive planning process are essential steps towards ensuring that development projects truly serve the interests of the entire community.

Community Involvement in the Implememtation Phase

During the implementation phase of development projects in Negeri Morella, community participation was notably more robust compared to the planning phase. The study revealed that traditional practices, particularly gotong royong (community self-help), played a pivotal role in mobilizing community members to contribute their labor towards public works. This cultural practice, deeply embedded in the social fabric of the community, fostered a collective spirit that encouraged individuals to work together for the common good.

However, while participation in these physical activities was relatively high, the research also highlighted that it was often sporadic and lacked consistency. Not all community members were equally engaged in the implementation phase. Some individuals participated actively, motivated by a strong sense of duty, cultural obligation, and the desire to uphold traditions. For these participants, involvement

in gotong royong was not just about contributing to a development project but also about maintaining a connection to their cultural heritage and community values.

On the other hand, a significant portion of the community was less involved. The study identified personal and economic reasons as primary factors contributing to this irregular participation. Some community members were unable to participate consistently due to work commitments or economic pressures that demanded their time and energy elsewhere. Others may have felt disconnected from the development initiatives, perceiving them as less relevant to their immediate needs or daily lives, which led to a lower level of engagement.

This irregular and inconsistent participation during the implementation phase suggests that while traditional practices like gotong royong are effective in mobilizing the community, they alone may not be sufficient to ensure sustained and widespread involvement. The study underscores the need for more structured and inclusive approaches to community engagement that can complement these traditional practices.

To achieve more consistent participation, it may be necessary to introduce mechanisms that accommodate the diverse needs and constraints of different community members. For instance, offering flexible participation options, providing incentives, or aligning project schedules with the availability of community members could help increase and stabilize participation levels. Additionally, clear communication about the relevance and benefits of the projects might encourage broader and more consistent engagement across the community.

In conclusion, while the implementation phase of development projects in Negeri Morella benefited from a higher level of community participation, this involvement was uneven and lacked continuity. Addressing these challenges through more inclusive and structured approaches could enhance the effectiveness of community engagement, ensuring that development projects are more successful and better aligned with the needs and capabilities of all community members.

Challenges in Community Supervision and Monitoring

One of the critical findings of the study was the minimal role played by the community in supervising and monitoring development projects in Negeri Morella. The research revealed that the community had very limited involvement in overseeing the financial management of these projects or in ensuring that the development outcomes aligned with the intended objectives. This lack of oversight has had significant consequences, including several instances of financial mismanagement by the local government. Without the community exercising adequate control or holding the authorities accountable, opportunities for corruption and inefficiency increased, undermining the effectiveness and sustainability of the development efforts.

The study identified a key barrier to effective community supervision: the absence of established communication channels that would allow residents to engage directly with government officials and voice their concerns. In Negeri Morella, the lack of formal structures for dialogue and feedback between the community and local authorities has created a significant gap. This gap not only limits the community's ability to monitor the progress and integrity of development projects but also contributes to a sense of disconnection and disenfranchisement among residents.

The absence of these communication channels means that many community members are unaware of the details of the projects, including the financial aspects, and are thus unable to provide meaningful input or oversight. Additionally, without a clear platform to express concerns or report irregularities, residents may feel powerless to influence the outcome of the projects, further reducing their willingness to engage in monitoring activities.

This situation highlights the urgent need for the creation of formal mechanisms for community involvement in the monitoring processes of development projects. Such mechanisms would not only provide the necessary channels for communication between the community and local government but also empower residents to play a more active role in ensuring that development initiatives are carried out transparently and efficiently.

Implementing these mechanisms could involve establishing regular community meetings where project updates are provided, creating advisory committees that include community representatives, or setting up transparent reporting systems that allow for real-time monitoring of project finances and

progress. Additionally, training programs for community members on how to effectively oversee and audit development projects could enhance their capacity to hold authorities accountable.

In conclusion, the study underscores the importance of community involvement in the supervision and monitoring of development projects. Without it, there is a higher risk of financial mismanagement and project failures. By establishing formal communication and oversight mechanisms, the community in Negeri Morella can ensure greater transparency and accountability, leading to more successful and sustainable development outcomes.

Factors Influencing Community Participation

The study identified several key factors that influence the level of community participation in development activities in Negeri Morella. These factors include age, gender, education level, occupation, and income, all of which play significant roles in determining how actively individuals engage in development initiatives.

For instance, the research found that younger and more educated individuals were generally more likely to participate actively in development activities. This demographic tends to be more aware of the benefits of community involvement and is often more motivated to contribute to local development efforts. In contrast, older and less educated members of the community were observed to be less involved. This disparity could be attributed to various reasons, including a lack of awareness, traditional views that may not prioritize community engagement, or physical limitations that prevent older individuals from participating as actively as their younger counterparts.

Economic factors also emerged as a significant determinant of participation. Individuals with stable incomes were more likely to contribute both their time and resources to development activities. This can be explained by the fact that those who are financially secure have the capacity to engage in voluntary activities without the immediate pressure of financial survival. Conversely, individuals with unstable or lower incomes may prioritize economic survival over participation in community development, leading to lower engagement levels among this group.

The study further highlighted the impact of environmental factors, such as the availability of infrastructure and social networks, on community participation. In areas where infrastructure is well-developed and social networks are strong, participation tends to be higher. Good infrastructure facilitates easier access to meeting venues and project sites, while robust social networks encourage collective action and support. On the other hand, in areas where infrastructure is lacking or social ties are weak, participation is often hindered. Residents in these areas may face logistical challenges in getting involved, or they may feel disconnected from the broader community, reducing their motivation to participate.

Understanding these factors is crucial for designing effective interventions that can enhance community involvement across different demographic groups. For example, targeted outreach and education campaigns can be implemented to raise awareness among older and less educated community members about the importance of their participation. Economic incentives or support programs could be introduced to help lower-income individuals engage more fully in community activities. Moreover, investing in infrastructure improvements and fostering stronger social networks can create an environment that is more conducive to active participation.

In conclusion, the study underscores the importance of considering a wide range of demographic, economic, and environmental factors when seeking to increase community participation in development activities. By addressing the specific needs and barriers faced by different groups, it is possible to design interventions that foster more inclusive and widespread community involvement, ultimately leading to more successful and sustainable development outcomes in Negeri Morella.

Discussion

To provide an in-depth and comprehensive discussion of this research, we will cover several key aspects that were the focus of the study. This discussion will include an understanding of community participation, the role of the government, challenges in implementing development, and the implications of the research findings on policies and development practices in Negeri Morella.

Concept of Community Participation in Development

Community participation is a fundamental component of inclusive and sustainable development. It involves not only the physical engagement of community members in development activities but also their active involvement in planning, decision-making, and oversight processes. In Negeri Morella, however, community participation remains at a level that requires significant improvement, particularly in the areas of planning and oversight.

According to the supporting literature, community participation is defined as a process where citizens actively engage in making decisions and executing activities that directly impact their lives. This engagement can take various forms, including direct participation in community meetings, contributing labor to communal projects, and overseeing the implementation of development initiatives. The active involvement of community members in these processes is crucial for ensuring that development efforts are aligned with the actual needs and priorities of the community, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of such initiatives.

In the context of Negeri Morella, while there have been efforts by local leaders and government officials to involve the community in development processes, the research findings suggest that this participation has not reached its full potential. Specifically, in the planning phase of development projects, the community's involvement is often limited. Many community members report feeling marginalized or excluded from decision-making processes, largely due to a lack of sufficient information and transparency. This disconnect can lead to a sense of disengagement and apathy among community members, which further hinders their participation.

The planning process is particularly critical because it sets the direction for development projects and determines how resources are allocated. When community members are not adequately involved in this process, there is a risk that the resulting plans will not fully reflect the diverse needs and priorities of the entire community. This can lead to the implementation of projects that are less effective or less relevant to the people they are intended to benefit.

Furthermore, the oversight of development projects is another area where community participation in Negeri Morella needs to be strengthened. Effective oversight requires that community members have the knowledge and tools to monitor the progress of development initiatives and hold those in charge accountable. Without this level of engagement, there is a greater risk of mismanagement, inefficiency, and the potential for resources to be misused.

In conclusion, while there have been efforts to involve the community in development activities in Negeri Morella, more needs to be done to enhance participation, especially in the critical areas of planning and oversight. By addressing the barriers that currently limit community involvement, such as lack of information and perceived marginalization, it is possible to foster a more inclusive and participatory approach to development that better meets the needs of all community members.

The Role of Government in Encouraging Community Participation

The government, particularly the village government and traditional leaders in Negeri Morella, plays a vital role in encouraging and facilitating community participation in development activities. However, this role is frequently challenged by various factors, including limited resources, a lack of capacity, and ineffective communication between the government and the community. These challenges have significant implications for the level of community involvement in development processes, which is critical for ensuring that development initiatives are successful and sustainable.

This research revealed that despite the government's efforts to engage the community through initiatives such as regular meetings and gotong royong (mutual aid) activities, community involvement remains disappointingly low. One of the primary reasons for this low level of engagement is the lack of transparency and openness from the government when it comes to communicating development plans. Many community members feel that their voices are not heard and that their opinions are not adequately considered during the planning process. This sense of exclusion can lead to apathy and a lack of motivation to participate in community activities, further reducing the overall level of engagement.

The issue of transparency is crucial because it directly affects the trust between the government and the community. When community members perceive that the government is not open about its plans or does not seek their input, they are less likely to feel invested in the outcomes of development projects.

This can result in a disconnect between the government's objectives and the community's needs, ultimately leading to projects that are less effective or less aligned with the community's priorities.

Additionally, the village government in Negeri Morella often struggles with the allocation of sufficient resources to promote active community participation. This is particularly evident in the areas of education and outreach, where there is a significant need to raise awareness about the importance of community involvement in development processes. Without adequate resources, the government is unable to conduct effective outreach or provide the necessary support to encourage broader participation.

The lack of resources also impacts the government's ability to build the capacity needed to manage and facilitate community participation effectively. This includes everything from organizing meetings and workshops to training community members on how to engage in the planning and monitoring of development projects. Without these capabilities, the government's efforts to involve the community are likely to remain superficial and inadequate.

In conclusion, while the village government and traditional leaders in Negeri Morella play a critical role in fostering community participation, their efforts are often undermined by challenges related to transparency, resource allocation, and capacity building. Addressing these issues is essential for enhancing community engagement and ensuring that development projects are more responsive to the needs and aspirations of the community. By improving communication, increasing transparency, and investing in capacity building, the government can create a more inclusive environment that encourages greater community participation in development activities.

Challenges in Implementing and Monitoring Development

The implementation of development projects in Negeri Morella faces several significant challenges, particularly in the areas of monitoring and social control. This research highlights that one of the primary weaknesses in the development process is the minimal level of community participation in overseeing these projects. This lack of involvement has resulted in issues such as fund mismanagement and substandard development outcomes, which ultimately undermine the effectiveness and sustainability of the development initiatives.

Community oversight is a critical component in ensuring that development projects are executed in alignment with the plans and objectives established during the planning phase. Effective oversight by the community can help identify and rectify issues early on, ensuring that resources are used efficiently and that the outcomes meet the community's needs and expectations. However, in Negeri Morella, the level of community participation in oversight activities remains very low, which poses a significant barrier to achieving these goals.

One of the key reasons for this limited participation is the community's lack of understanding and knowledge about how to effectively conduct oversight. Many community members are not familiar with the processes involved in monitoring development projects, including financial oversight, quality control, and accountability measures. This lack of expertise makes it difficult for them to contribute meaningfully to the oversight process, leading to a situation where critical issues go unnoticed or unaddressed.

Additionally, the absence of formal mechanisms or adequate public communication channels further exacerbates the problem. In Negeri Morella, there are few established platforms where community members can express their concerns, provide feedback, or participate in the oversight of development projects. Without these channels, the community's ability to hold project managers and local authorities accountable is severely limited. This gap not only diminishes the potential for effective community oversight but also fosters a sense of disengagement and powerlessness among the residents.

The research suggests that addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach. Firstly, there needs to be a concerted effort to educate and empower the community on how to effectively monitor and oversee development projects. This could involve training programs, workshops, and the dissemination of easy-to-understand information on the oversight process. By building the community's capacity in this area, it is possible to enhance their role in ensuring that development projects are managed properly and deliver the intended benefits.

Secondly, the establishment of formal mechanisms and communication channels is crucial. Creating platforms for regular community meetings, feedback sessions, and transparent reporting

systems would allow residents to engage more actively in the oversight process. These mechanisms would provide the necessary structure for community members to voice their concerns, monitor progress, and ensure that development projects are conducted with accountability and transparency.

In conclusion, while the implementation of development in Negeri Morella faces challenges related to monitoring and social control, these can be addressed by improving community education and establishing formal oversight mechanisms. Strengthening community participation in these areas is essential for ensuring that development projects are successful, sustainable, and truly beneficial to the people of Negeri Morella.

Factors Influencing Community Participation

Community participation in development is significantly influenced by a variety of demographic and socio-economic factors. This research identified several key determinants that affect the level of community involvement, including age, education level, gender, occupation, and income. Each of these factors plays a crucial role in shaping how individuals engage with development activities in their communities.

For instance, the research found that younger and more educated individuals tend to be more active in participating in development initiatives compared to older and less educated groups. This trend suggests that education, which increases awareness and understanding of the importance of community involvement, is a critical driver of participation. Younger people, often more exposed to modern educational practices and civic engagement, are typically more motivated to contribute to the development of their communities. In contrast, older and less educated individuals may feel less confident in their ability to participate effectively, or they may not fully appreciate the potential impact of their involvement.

Economic factors also play a significant role in determining the level of community participation. Individuals with stable and higher incomes are generally more likely to engage in development activities, both by contributing their time and through financial means. This is likely because those who are financially secure have the resources and flexibility to participate in community projects without the immediate pressure of meeting basic economic needs. In contrast, individuals with lower or unstable incomes might prioritize their efforts on securing their livelihood, leaving less time and energy for community involvement.

Environmental factors, such as the availability of infrastructure and accessibility, also have a considerable impact on community participation. The research showed that communities residing in areas with better infrastructure and easier access to development activities are more likely to be actively involved. Infrastructure such as roads, transportation, and communication networks facilitate easier access to meeting locations, project sites, and information, enabling more consistent and widespread participation. Conversely, those living in remote or underserved areas often face logistical challenges that hinder their ability to engage in development processes. These challenges can include long travel distances, poor communication networks, and a lack of awareness about ongoing projects.

In summary, community participation in development is shaped by a complex interplay of demographic, socio-economic, and environmental factors. Understanding these factors is essential for designing effective strategies to enhance community involvement. By addressing the barriers that specific groups face, such as providing education and outreach to less engaged demographics, improving infrastructure in underserved areas, and creating opportunities for financial stability, development initiatives can become more inclusive and better aligned with the needs of the entire community.

Implications of the Research for Policy and Development Practice

The findings of this research have significant implications for policies and development practices in Negeri Morella and similar areas. One of the primary implications is the need to enhance the capacity of village governments in managing and facilitating community participation. To achieve this, the government must adopt a more inclusive and transparent approach in both the planning and implementation stages of development projects. This means providing clearer, more accessible information to the community about ongoing and upcoming development initiatives. By doing so, the

government can foster a greater sense of ownership and involvement among community members, which is crucial for the success of these projects.

Moreover, this research underscores the importance of education and outreach efforts aimed at increasing community awareness about the role and significance of their participation in development. Education and outreach programs are essential tools for empowering community members with the knowledge and skills they need to actively engage in development processes. By improving the community's understanding of how their involvement can influence the outcomes of development projects, it is hoped that active participation will increase. This, in turn, is likely to have a positive impact on the overall success and sustainability of development initiatives in the area.

The research also highlights the need for the establishment of formal mechanisms for participatory oversight. To ensure that development projects are carried out effectively and transparently, the village government, in collaboration with the community, should establish institutions or forums dedicated to the oversight of these projects. Such forums can serve as platforms where community members can provide input, monitor the implementation of projects, and hold authorities accountable to ensure that the projects are executed according to plan.

These forums would not only facilitate better communication between the government and the community but also empower residents to take an active role in the governance and management of local development initiatives. This kind of participatory oversight is critical for preventing issues such as mismanagement or misallocation of resources, which can derail development efforts.

In conclusion, the research emphasizes the importance of strengthening the role of village governments in managing community participation and promoting transparency in development practices. Additionally, it calls for more focused efforts on education and the creation of formal oversight mechanisms. By implementing these strategies, village governments can create a more engaged and empowered community, leading to more effective and equitable development outcomes in Negeri Morella and similar regions.

CONCLUSION

Conclusion

Based on the research findings regarding community participation in development in Negeri Morella Village, Leihitu District, Central Maluku Regency, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. Community participation in development planning in Negeri Morella Village, Leihitu District, Central Maluku Regency is generally low, with some members of the community participating actively while others do not. Some youth leaders have proposed positive ideas and suggestions for the village's development, while some community leaders are not interested in participating in development and village activities due to personal interests.

2. In terms of participation during the implementation phase of development in Negeri Morella Village, Leihitu District, Central Maluku Regency, the active involvement of the community is crucial, alongside the role of the government in guiding, supervising, and providing the necessary budget as part of its commitment to rural development. The Raja of Negeri Morella and his officials have been quite active and successful in fulfilling their roles in encouraging and directing community participation, resulting in the successful completion of activities and development projects as expected by the village community. The government involves the community in the process of implementing development projects. However, some community members were found to be less active in participating due to personal interests and certain conditions within the community.

3. According to interviews, community participation in development in Negeri Morella Village, Leihitu District, Central Maluku Regency is fairly active. This is evident as community members often contribute labor during development activities. However, some interviewees were found to be less knowledgeable about the supervision procedures.

4. The factors influencing community participation in development in Negeri Morella Village, Leihitu District, Central Maluku Regency include age, gender, education, occupation, income, and the environment.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are offered based on the results of this research for the community of Negeri Morella Village:

1. The Village Government of Negeri Morella and the community should establish good relationships and cooperation to ensure that planned development programs can be realized effectively.
2. Participation in the implementation of development should be carried out with strong cooperation between the community and the village government of Negeri Morella.
3. Supervision of development requires collaboration between the community, youth, and the village government to achieve positive outcomes for the development or activities undertaken.
4. The village government and all village officials work to include all community components, ensuring that the community is always involved in village development, fostering broad social relationships, and promoting good humanitarian attitudes.

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