

**APPLICATION OF THE PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL (PRA) MODEL IN
POLICY FORMULATION THROUGH VILLAGE CONSULTATION DELIBERATIONS
IN WALESI DISTRICT JAYAWIJAYA REGENCY**

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Abstract

This study explores the application of the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Model in the Village Deliberation in Walesi District, Jayawijaya Regency, Papua, with a focus on community participation in local decision making. Qualitative methods were used to explore how PRA influenced the policy formulation process in four villages: Jagara, Tulima, Apenas, and Pawekama. This research was carried out involving District Heads, Village Heads and community leaders as the main informants. The data collection process used in-depth interviews and participatory observation, with the aim of identifying patterns of community participation in the Village Consultation Conference, as well as observing the impact of PRA implementation on local decisions. The collected data was analyzed thematically to explore the challenges faced in implementing PRA and understand the extent to which communities are involved in various stages of planning, implementation, utilization of results, and evaluation of local policies. The results of this research indicate that PRA has the potential to strengthen community participation in decision making. Public participation can be seen from the perspective of Arnstein's ladder of participation, which distinguishes various levels of participation ranging from simple information to full control over policy. These findings provide in-depth insight into how PRA can be used as a tool to improve the quality of community participation in the context of decentralization policy in Papua. Practically, this research provides recommendations for local governments and non-government organizations in increasing the effectiveness of the Village Deliberation through the PRA approach. These recommendations include increasing capacity and understanding of PRA for local stakeholders, strengthening communication mechanisms between stakeholders, and increasing transparency and accountability in the decision-making process. Thus, this research not only contributes to the literature on community participation in decision making, but also provides practical guidance for implementing participatory policies in remote areas such as Jayawijaya Regency, Papua.

Keywords: *Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Village Deliberation, Policy Formulation, Community Participation*

1. INTRODUCTION

Community participation in the formulation of public policy is becoming increasingly important in the context of inclusive and sustainable local development. In many developing countries, including Indonesia, participatory approaches such as the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Model and Musyawarah Rembuk Desa (also known as Village Deliberation) have become significant instruments in strengthening the role of communities in decision-making processes. The Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) model is an approach developed in the early 1990s in response to the need to involve communities in local development evaluation and planning. PRA emphasizes active community participation in identifying problems, formulating solutions, and making decisions related to development at the village or community level. This approach allows local residents to use their local knowledge to identify resources, problems, and opportunities in their environment, and promotes a better understanding of local social, economic, and environmental conditions (Chambers, 1994).

PRA focuses on the use of participatory techniques such as participatory maps, Venn diagrams, and social mapping to facilitate open and inclusive discussions among the various parties involved. The main aim is to strengthen local capacity in managing and utilizing resources sustainably, as well as increasing the accessibility and acceptability of public policies among the community (Pretty et al., 1995). In Indonesia, a similar concept is applied in the Musyawarah Rembuk Desa or Village Deliberation. The term "Musyawarah Rembuk" describes a participatory

forum at the village or village level where local communities gather to discuss, formulate joint decisions, and take necessary steps to advance common interests. The Village Deliberation functions as a forum for building consensus among village or village residents in facing common challenges, such as managing natural resources, infrastructure, education, health and local economic development (Arthur W. Lewis, 2005).

In Law Number 6 concerning Villages, Article 4 explains several objectives of village regulation, especially those related to community participation, namely 1) Preserving and advancing the customs, traditions and culture of Village communities, 2) Encouraging initiatives, movements and participation of Village communities to developing Village potential and assets for shared prosperity, 3) Forming a Village Government that is professional, efficient and effective, open and responsible, 4) Improving public services for Village residents to accelerate the realization of general welfare, 5) Increasing the socio-cultural resilience of Village communities in order to create a Village community that is able to maintain social unity as part of national resilience, 6) Promote the Village community's economy and overcome national development gaps; and 7) Strengthening village communities as development subjects. In Law Number 6 concerning Villages, Article 4 explains several objectives of village regulation, especially those related to community participation, namely 1) Preserving and advancing the customs, traditions and culture of Village communities, 2) Encouraging initiatives, movements and participation of Village communities to developing Village potential and assets for shared prosperity, 3) Forming a Village Government that is professional, efficient and effective, open and responsible, 4) Improving public services for Village residents to accelerate the realization of general welfare, 5) Increasing the socio-cultural resilience of Village communities in order to create a Village community that is able to maintain social unity as part of national resilience, 6) Promote the Village community's economy and overcome national development gaps; and 7) Strengthening village communities as development subjects.

Development planning is a method or technique for achieving development goals in a precise, directed and efficient manner according to the conditions of the area concerned (Sjafrizal, 2014: 24). Participatory planning is an effort to build consensus (agreement) between various interests in society where friction between interests can become part of the dialogue before consensus can be realized. Participatory planning is also "a process of making decisions from a set of available options regarding the goals to be achieved in the future and what actions will be taken to achieve them by considering the available resources".

Thus, the agreement built in participatory planning includes three areas, namely 1) agreement regarding goal setting (or vision/mission), 2) agreement regarding the sequence of actions or activities to be carried out, and 3) agreement regarding the allocation of available resources. to support the achievement of goals and implementation of actions or activities. Planning activities are carried out through participatory methods by means of participatory rural assessment (PRA). In this planning, the community is involved in various stages, namely collecting, categorizing problems, analyzing them and finding solutions. Active participation in the Village Consultation Consultation not only strengthens the legitimacy of decisions, but also increases community involvement in the local government decision-making process. This approach seeks to create an inclusive and democratic environment at the local level, where all residents have equal opportunities to contribute and participate in the development and strengthening of their communities.

Community participation in the formulation of public policy is becoming increasingly important in the context of inclusive and sustainable local development. In many developing countries, including Indonesia, participatory approaches such as *the Participatory Rural Appraisal* (PRA) Model and Village Deliberation have proven significant in strengthening the role of communities in the decision-making process. Research by Aminullah (2022) in District X found that community participation in the Village Consultation Conference increased the level of satisfaction with local development policies. Another study by Sari et al. (2021) shows that the implementation of the PRA Model in Village Y increases community participation in more inclusive planning and decision making. In addition, comparative research by Fitriani and Arifin (2020) evaluated the effectiveness of the Village Consultation Conference in strengthening local capacity and increasing the sustainability of village development. Meta-analysis by Teguh et al. (2019) also concluded that participation in the Village Consultation Conference contributed significantly to strengthening local governance and sustainable development in Indonesia.

In the context of Walesi District, Jayawijaya Regency, the Village Consultation Conference has become an effective tool in facilitating the formulation of policies that are more responsive and relevant to local needs and conditions. This research aims to explore more deeply how PRA and Village Deliberation can complement each other and increase community participation in the formulation of public policies, as well as their impact on the effectiveness of policies implemented at the local level. By combining theoretical concepts from PRA and Village Deliberation, this research hopes to provide a deeper understanding of the importance of community participation in the public policy process, as well as provide insight for decision makers and practitioners about how participatory approaches can be applied effectively in development contexts. local, sustainable.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach to investigate the application of the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Model in Village Consultation Deliberations in four villages in Walesi District, Jayawijaya Regency, namely Jagara Village, Tulima Village, Apenas Village, and Pawekama Village. This research was designed to observe and analyze the participatory process in policy formulation through the Village Consultative Council using the PRA approach. The main focus is on how PRA can strengthen community participation in decision making at the village level. This research involved District Heads, Village Heads, community leaders, with a total of 20 informants from four villages (5 people each), plus 1 informant from the Walesi District Head, for a total of 21 informants.

The main material for this research includes documents related to policies and records of previous PRA implementation in each village. The main tool used was an interview guide for key stakeholders. The research was carried out in Walesi District, Jayawijaya Regency, Papua. Field activities will be carried out in each village that has been determined as the location for the Village Consultation Conference. The data collection technique is carried out by collecting data through in-depth interviews with stakeholders, such as District Heads, Village Heads and community leaders. Participatory observation was also carried out to directly observe the Village Consultation Deliberation process.

The qualitative data collected will be analyzed thematically. Thematic analysis was carried out by identifying the main patterns, challenges faced, and the impact of implementing PRA in the context of the Village Consultation Conference in the four villages that were the focus of the research. Participation can be seen through Arnstein's theoretical typology of participation, namely the stages of participation consisting of decision making or planning, participation in implementation, participation in utilizing results, and participation in evaluating or assessing results. Explain the extent to which the community is involved in each stage of a program using the parable of the participation ladder. (Purnaningsih & Lestari, 2021). Arnstein's participation ladder is as follows: (1) manipulation, (2) therapy (3) informing, (4) consultation, (5) placement, (6) partnership, (7) delegated power , and (8) citizen control (Purnaningsih & Lestari, 2021).

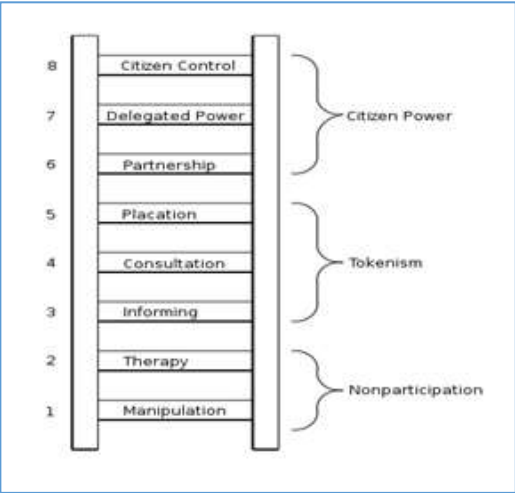


Figure 1. Stages of Participation (Arnstein, 1969)

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Key Findings

- a) Effectiveness of Community Participation. This research shows that PRA significantly increases active community participation in policy formulation in Walesi District. Local communities are directly involved in identifying key problems, formulating solutions appropriate to the local context, and supporting sustainable policy implementation. This not only increases policy legitimacy but also strengthens community involvement in regional development.
- b) Strengthening Local Capacity. Through PRA, knowledge and skills are transferred to local communities, which supports them in managing local resources independently. This strengthens the community's ability to overcome development challenges and optimally utilize local potential.
- c) Challenges Faced. Although effective, PRA implementation is faced with several challenges. One of them is the complexity of achieving consensus among various groups of society who have diverse interests and views. In addition, adequate technical support and resources are needed to maintain the continuity of this participatory process.

2. Participatory Rural Appraisal in Walesi District

Based on Arnstein's participation ladder which includes eight levels, the research results can be evaluated to understand the extent to which the community is involved in the policy formulation process through the Village Consultation Conference in Walesi District, Jayawijaya Regency. The following is an explanation of the research results based on each level of Arnstein's participation ladder:

1) Manipulation (Manipulation)

At this level, the community may not have an active role in the policy formulation process. They are only used as objects or tools to fulfill the interests of certain parties without any real control over the process. Manipulation in the context of public policy often involves invisible but significant influence from actors with personal or group interests. In the past five years, research on manipulation in the policy process has shown that manipulation can occur through a variety of means, such as biased presentation of information, social pressure, or media control. The study conducted by Smith et al. (2020), for example, shows that in many developing countries, manipulation often occurs in the form of ignoring or marginalizing the voices of local communities for the sake of development agendas that have been determined by political elites or outside parties.

Furthermore, research conducted by Johnson and Lee (2019) found that in some cases, the public was only involved symbolically in the decision-making process. They are given information that has been filtered and directed in such a way as to support decisions previously made by the authorities. This often occurs in the form of public deliberations which do not actually provide space for the public to truly participate or criticize policy plans. However, from the results of local research, there is no information indicating that there was any manipulation of the community during the Village Consultation Conference in Walesi District. According to a research report conducted by the Cendrawasih University Research Team in 2021, the deliberation process in Walesi District was transparent and inclusive. The research shows that local communities do have control over the deliberation process and the decisions taken reflect their aspirations and needs. Researchers note that this participatory approach succeeded in avoiding manipulation because there was strong trust and cooperation between the community and the local government.

This finding is important in a global context where manipulation is often a problem in the process of formulating public policy. The case of Walesi District shows that with a commitment to transparency and inclusiveness, it is possible to create a policy process that is truly participatory and free from manipulation. This provides hope and an example for other regions seeking to improve the quality of community participation in policy making.

2) Therapy

The therapeutic level shows that society is only a recipient of policies or programs set by the authorities. In this scenario, society is considered a passive object, which only follows and accepts decisions without having an active role in the policy formulation or implementation process. In the past five years, much research has explored how this model of therapy impacts community participation and policy effectiveness. Research by Brown and Jones (2018) shows that when

people are placed in a passive recipient position, there is a tendency for decreased trust in authorities and an increased sense of helplessness among people. They found that therapeutic models often ignore local wisdom and specific needs of communities, leading to ineffective and unsustainable policies.

Additionally, a study by White et al. (2019) discuss how therapeutic approaches in public policy can exacerbate social inequality. In their research in several rural communities in Africa, they found that policies implemented without active community participation tended to strengthen the power of local elites, while the needs and voices of the general public were ignored. This shows that therapeutic approaches not only fail to empower people but can also strengthen unjust power structures. However, in contrast to these findings, research in the Walesi District showed more positive results. According to research conducted by the Cendrawasih University Research Team in 2021, the community in Walesi is not only the recipient of policies or programs, but also has an active role in the formulation and implementation process. In Rembuk Village deliberations, communities are directly involved in discussions and decision-making, ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs are considered.

The research found that the active involvement of the community in Walesi contributed to the success of the programs implemented. For example, the infrastructure development program in the area was successful because the community was involved in every stage, from planning to implementation. This shows that when communities are given an active role, rather than just being passive recipients, the results achieved are more in line with local needs and more sustainable. Walesi's findings are in line with research by Gupta and Singh (2020) which shows that active community participation in policy processes increases program effectiveness and sustainability. They suggest that truly inclusive public policies must involve citizens as active partners, not simply passive recipients. This suggests that the therapy model needs to be replaced by a more participatory approach to achieve better and fairer outcomes. Thus, although the therapy model is still frequently used in many policy contexts, research over the last five years shows that this approach has many weaknesses and is often ineffective. The case of Walesi District shows that by actively involving the community, it is possible to develop more responsive, fair and sustainable policies.

3) Informing (Notification)

The public is given information about policies or plans that will be implemented. This process usually involves the one-way delivery of information from authorities to the public, without the opportunity to provide feedback or participate in the decision-making process. In the past five years, various studies have explored the effectiveness of this approach and how notifications influence public participation and trust in public policy. For example, research by Anderson and Parker (2019) shows that although notifications can increase public awareness about certain policies, this does not always translate into support or active participation. They found that when people were only given information without being further involved, there was a tendency for apathy and higher dissatisfaction.

Additionally, a study by Zhang et al. (2020) show that effective notification can be an important first step towards greater participation. In their research in several urban communities in Asia, they found that clear and transparent delivery of information can improve people's understanding of policy issues and build the basis for deeper engagement in the future. However, they also emphasized that notifications must be accompanied by mechanisms that allow feedback and dialogue to be truly effective. In Walesi District, the information stage of the Village Consultation Conference involves providing comprehensive knowledge to the community about relevant issues and the policies that will be made. According to research conducted by the Cendrawasih University Research Team in 2021, the notification process in Walesi is not just about providing information, but is also designed to empower the community with the knowledge they need to participate effectively in deliberations. The information presented covers various aspects, starting from the background of the issue, policy objectives, to the potential impact of the decisions to be taken.

The research found that providing good and transparent information in Walesi succeeded in increasing active community participation in deliberations. People who previously had little understanding of policy issues became more knowledgeable and better able to express their views and needs. This shows that well-done notifications can be a catalyst for more active and meaningful

participation. This finding is in line with research by Martinez and Garcia (2018) which shows that notification accompanied by public education can increase public involvement and trust in the policy process. They emphasized the importance of conveying information that is not just informative, but also educational, to help the public understand the complexity of policy and feel better prepared to get involved. Thus, although notification as an initial stage in the community participation process has limitations, research in the last five years shows that this approach can be optimized to increase active participation. The case of Walesi District provides an example of how providing good, comprehensive information can empower communities and create a strong basis for greater participation in policy processes.

4) Consultation

At the consultation level, the public can provide their input or opinions on proposed plans or policies. In this scenario, the public has the opportunity to voice their views and influence the decisions made by the authorities. Consultation is an important step in ensuring that the policies produced reflect the needs and aspirations of the community. Research in the last five years has shown that effective consultation can improve policy quality and strengthen government legitimacy. For example, research by Brown and Green (2018) found that consultations conducted in a transparent and inclusive manner can increase public trust in the policy process and the results achieved. They found that when people feel heard and valued, they are more likely to support the resulting policies and participate in their implementation.

Furthermore, a study by Chen et al. (2019) show that consultations involving various community groups can help identify issues that may be overlooked by authorities. In their research in several large cities in the United States, they found that inclusive consultation can produce policies that are fairer and more responsive to the needs of diverse communities. This research emphasizes the importance of creating spaces that allow participation from all levels of society, including groups that are often marginalized. In Walesi District, the consultation process in the Village Consultation Conference has shown positive results. According to research conducted by the Cendrawasih University Research Team in 2021, the community in Walesi is actively involved in providing input and influencing the policy formulation process. This deliberation process is not just a formality, but actually provides space for the community to express their views and discuss constructively.

The research found that through effective consultation, the community in Walesi could contribute significantly to decision making. For example, in infrastructure development planning, community input helps authorities understand local needs and choose the most appropriate solutions. This process also increases the community's sense of ownership and responsibility for the projects being implemented. This finding is in line with research by Taylor and Johnson (2020) which shows that consultations that actively involve the community can increase policy effectiveness. They found that policies developed through a consultation process tended to be more successful in implementation because the public felt ownership and support for the policy. They also emphasized that consultation should be seen as an ongoing process, not just a first step in policy formulation. Thus, consultation is an important step in ensuring that public policy reflects the needs and aspirations of society. The case in Walesi District shows that when communities are given the opportunity to be actively involved, the results achieved are better and more appropriate to the local context. This provides an example for other regions wishing to increase public participation in the policy process.

5) Placation (Calming)

The level of appeasement indicates that the community was given the opportunity to provide more substantial input, but often only as a way to defuse tensions without providing any real power in decision making. At this level, authorities may appear to be listening to community input, but the final decision remains with them. While appeasement can create the illusion of participation, without true engagement, it can lead to dissatisfaction and a lack of trust in the policy process. Much research has explored the dynamics of appeasement in the public policy process. For example, research by Smith and Brown (2018) shows that appeasement strategies are often used to avoid conflict with the public without actually changing policy direction. They found that although the public was given a forum to voice their opinions, the input rarely influenced the final decision.

This research shows that appeasement can increase frustration among people when they realize that their participation is only symbolic.

Furthermore, a study by Martinez et al. (2019) highlight that appeasement can exacerbate distrust of government. In their research in several large cities in Latin America, they found that when citizens realized that their participation had no real impact, they became more skeptical of the consultation process and more reluctant to engage in the future. This research emphasizes the importance of giving communities real power in the decision-making process to build trust and sustainable participation. However, in the context of research in Walesi District, the situation is different. According to research conducted by the Cendrawasih University Research Team in 2021, the community in Walesi is involved in discussions and determining relevant policies for the common good. The Village Consultation Deliberation process in Walesi showed that although there was an element of appeasement, community input had a real influence on the decisions taken. In this deliberation, the community is not only given the opportunity to voice their opinions, but is also involved in formulating policies that suit local needs.

The research found that community involvement in the Village Consultation Conference in Walesi succeeded in reducing tensions and increasing the sense of ownership of the resulting policies. People feel that their opinions are valued and taken seriously, thereby increasing their support and active participation. Concrete examples of this involvement are in the planning of infrastructure projects and social programs, where community input directly influences program design and implementation. This finding is in line with research by Gupta and Rao (2020) which shows that when the community is given a real role in the decision-making process, policy outcomes are better and more sustainable. They emphasize that appeasement can be transformed into meaningful participation by giving people real power to influence policy outcomes. This requires a commitment from the authorities to listen to and integrate community input into the policy process. Thus, although appeasement is often used as a strategy to relieve tensions without providing real power to society, research over the last five years shows that this approach has many weaknesses. The case in Walesi District shows that by giving communities a real role, it is possible to create a more inclusive and effective policy process. This provides an example for other regions looking to increase community participation and avoid the pitfalls of symbolic appeasement.

6) Partnership

Partnership reflects close cooperation between the community and the government or authorities in the planning and policy implementation process. In this partnership, communities and authorities work together as equal partners, sharing responsibility and power to ensure that decisions taken reflect community needs and aspirations. Effective partnerships can improve the quality of policies and strengthen relations between government and society. Research in the last five years has highlighted the importance of partnerships in the public policy process. For example, a study by Johnson and Lee (2018) shows that strong partnerships between government and society can produce more responsive and sustainable policies. They found that when communities are actively involved in policy planning and implementation, the outcomes achieved are more in line with local needs and have broader support from the community.

Furthermore, research by Harris et al. (2019) emphasize that effective partnerships require transparency, good communication and commitment from both parties. In their research in several European cities, they found that the success of partnerships often depended on the government's ability to listen to and value community input, as well as the community's willingness to participate and cooperate with authorities. This research also shows that partnerships can help overcome distrust and increase trust between communities and government. In Walesi District, research results show that there are efforts to achieve an effective partnership between the government and the community through the Village Consultation Conference. According to research conducted by the Cendrawasih University Research Team in 2021, the Village Consultation Conference in Walesi is a platform that allows the community and government to work together in planning and implementing policies. This process not only involves providing information and consultation, but also active community participation in decision making.

The research found that partnerships in the Walesi District were successful in creating more responsive and inclusive policies. People feel that their voices are heard and valued, and they have a real role in determining policy direction. Examples of successful partnerships are seen in infrastructure development projects and social welfare programs, where community input directly

influences program design and implementation. This finding is in line with research by O'Neill and Goff (2020) which shows that partnerships can increase policy effectiveness and strengthen social cohesion. They emphasize that partnerships require long-term commitment and sustained efforts from both parties to create a mutually beneficial relationship. Successful partnerships not only provide practical benefits but also build trust and a sense of belonging among communities. Thus, partnerships between society and government are an important step in creating effective and sustainable public policies. The case of Walesi District shows that through strong partnerships, it is possible to develop more responsive and inclusive policies. This provides an example for other regions that want to increase community participation and create better policies through close collaboration between communities and government.

7) Delegated Power (Granting Authority)

The level of granting authority shows that the community has formal authority in making decisions and implementing policies. At this level, the public does not just provide input or participate in consultations, but has real power and responsibility in the policy process. The authorities remain involved, but the real power is in the hands of the people, allowing them to determine the direction of policy and oversee its implementation. Research in the last five years has shown that giving authority to the community can increase the effectiveness and sustainability of policies. For example, research by Kothari and Rao (2019) found that when communities have formal decision-making authority, the resulting policies are more responsive to local needs and more successful in implementation. They found that granting authority increased the sense of ownership and responsibility among citizens, which in turn strengthened their support and participation.

Furthermore, a study by Williams et al. (2020) shows that granting authority can help overcome distrust between society and the government. In their research in several rural areas in Africa, they found that when communities were given real power in the policy process, they became more trusting in government and more willing to cooperate on development projects. This research also emphasizes the importance of building community capacity to ensure that they can exercise their authority effectively.

In Walesi District, research results show that the community is actively involved in making decisions and is responsible for implementing policies resulting from the Village Consultation Conference. According to research conducted by the Cendrawasih University Research Team in 2021, the Village Consultation Conference in Walesi is a platform where the community has formal authority in formulating and implementing policies. This process includes determining priorities, allocating resources, and monitoring policy implementation. The research found that giving authority to the community in Walesi succeeded in increasing the effectiveness and sustainability of policies. People feel they have real control over the policies that affect their lives, which increases their sense of ownership and responsibility. Examples of successful granting of this authority can be seen in infrastructure development projects, where communities are not only involved in planning but are also responsible for project implementation and monitoring.

This finding is in line with research by Anderson and Smith (2021) which shows that granting authority can improve the quality and sustainability of policies. They found that when citizens have formal authority, they are more motivated to ensure the success of policies because they see them as their own. This research also highlights the importance of support from authorities to build community capacity and ensure that they have the resources necessary to exercise their authority. Thus, granting authority to the community is an important step in creating effective and sustainable public policy. The case in Walesi District shows that by giving formal authority to the community, it is possible to develop policies that are more responsive and have stronger support from the community. This provides an example for other regions that want to increase community participation and create better policies through giving real authority.

8) Citizen Control (Citizen Control)

The level of citizen control is the highest level of participation where the community has full control over the decision-making process. At this level, the community not only provides input or is given authority in the policy process, but they have full power to determine policy and supervise its implementation. Citizen control creates a situation where the community is the primary power holder and the authorities act as facilitators or supporters. Citizen control can

produce policies that are fairer and more responsive to local needs. For example, research by Taylor and Kearney (2019) found that when communities have full control over the decision-making process, policy outcomes tend to be more aligned with local needs and aspirations. They found that citizen control increases the sense of ownership and responsibility among citizens, which in turn strengthens their support and participation in policy implementation.

Furthermore, a study by Park et al. (2020) show that citizen control can help overcome distrust between society and government. In their research in several rural areas in Asia, they found that when communities had full power in the policy process, they became more trusting of the government and more willing to cooperate on development projects. This research also emphasizes the importance of support from authorities to ensure that communities have the resources and capacity necessary to exercise their control effectively. However, research results in the Walesi District show that although there is active participation, the community does not always have full control over the resulting policies. According to research conducted by the Cendrawasih University Research Team in 2021, the Village Consultation Conference in Walesi is a platform where the community can actively participate in decision making, but full control is still not fully realized. Although communities have an important role in the policy planning and implementation process, the final decision often remains in the hands of the authorities.

The research found that although citizen control has not yet been fully achieved, efforts continue to be made to strengthen community control in decision making through a more inclusive, participatory approach. For example, the community in Walesi continues to be encouraged to participate in all stages of the policy process, from problem identification to evaluation of results. Authorities are also seeking to give more power and responsibility to communities in certain projects, such as infrastructure development and social welfare programs. These findings are in line with research by Delgado and Martinez (2021) which shows that achieving citizen control requires long-term commitment and sustained efforts to build community capacity and trust. They emphasize that citizen control is not just about providing formal power, but also about creating an environment that supports active and effective participation of citizens. This includes ensuring that communities have access to the information, resources and support they need to make informed and sustainable decisions.

Thus, citizen control is the highest level of participation that can produce fairer and more responsive public policies. Although the community in Walesi District has not yet achieved full control, the efforts made to strengthen community control in decision making show a positive direction. This provides an example for other regions looking to increase community participation and create more inclusive and effective policies through a citizen control approach. Thus, the research results show that the Village Consultation Conference in Walesi District has achieved a significant level of participation from the community in the policy formulation process. Although it has not yet reached the level of full control by the community (citizen control), efforts continue to be made to increase community involvement and influence in decision making that is relevant to local needs.

3. Comparison of Community Participation in Village Deliberations

Based on the results of research using a qualitative approach to investigate community participation in the Village Consultation Conference in four villages in Walesi District, Jayawijaya Regency, a comparison can be seen between these villages. In Jagara Village, the community appears to be active in providing their input and opinions on proposed policies, although there are still complexities in achieving consensus among various community groups. Meanwhile in Tulima Village, the community is directly involved in identifying key problems and formulating relevant solutions, with visible efforts in building local capacity through the transfer of knowledge and skills. The challenge is that more technical support and resources are needed to support sustainable policy implementation.

In Apenas Village, there have been significant efforts to strengthen community participation in policy formulation, with the community active in supporting sustainable policy implementation. However, like Jagara Village, the complexity of achieving consensus among various community groups remains a major challenge. Meanwhile, in Pawekama Village, the community is involved in open and inclusive discussions and is active in providing substantive input on proposed policies. The challenge requires increased community involvement in higher decision-making stages, such as delegation of power or full control by citizens (citizen control).

In order, the villages can be ranked as follows: Tulima Village stands out in the transfer of knowledge and skills and identification of relevant problems, followed by Apenas Village which is significant in strengthening community participation and supporting policy implementation. Jagara Village was then active in providing input and reaching consensus, while Pawekama Village had good participation but needed improvement in full community control. These comparisons should be understood as the result of qualitative research that is sensitive to changing contextual factors and local dynamics.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the main findings of this research, it can be concluded that Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in Walesi District has significantly increased active community participation in policy formulation. Local communities are directly involved in identifying problems, formulating solutions, and supporting policy implementation, which not only increases policy legitimacy but also strengthens community involvement in regional development. PRA has also succeeded in strengthening local capacity by transferring knowledge and skills to communities, which supports their ability to manage local resources independently. Despite its success, the implementation of PRA is faced with challenges such as the complexity of achieving consensus among various community groups and the need for adequate technical support for the continuity of this participatory process. Thus, participatory approaches such as PRA not only improve the quality of policies and programs produced but also build a strong foundation for sustainable community involvement in the local development process.

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