



The relationship and social interaction between the village head and the village consultative body in decision-making for village physical development

Nowo Heriyono¹, Mahendra Wijaya², Trisni Utami³

^{1,2,3} Program Studi Sosiologi, Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Surakarta, Indonesia

Article Info

Article history:

Received: Apr 21, 2024

Revised: May 29, 2024

Accepted: Aug 29, 2024

Keywords:

Decision-Making;
Social Interaction;
Village Consultative Body (BPD);
Village Head;
Village Physical Development.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to analyze the roles and interactions of both entities in achieving village development goals. This research employs a qualitative method with a descriptive case study approach, located in Tanjungharjo Village, Kapas District, Bojonegoro Regency. The village was selected due to its contextual relevance for studying the working relationship and social interaction between the village head and the Village Consultative Body (BPD) in physical development decision-making. The research subjects include village members and relevant officials involved in the process. Data collection techniques include in-depth interviews with research subjects, participatory observation during village meetings and development activities, as well as document analysis of various official village records. Data were analyzed inductively and qualitatively, starting with transcription and coding to identify key themes, followed by thematic analysis to explore the dynamics of decision-making. The results of the study indicate that the working relationship between the Village Head and the Village Consultative Body (BPD) in Tanjungharjo Village varies and affects the effectiveness of village development decision-making. A harmonious and mutually supportive relationship creates an inclusive and democratic decision-making environment, while tension or conflict can hinder collaboration. Factors such as differing viewpoints, lack of communication, the dominance of the Village Head, and personal or political conflicts influence this relationship. Enhancing the understanding of the BPD's role, communication, and active participation is necessary to address these challenges. This study aligns with Social Exchange Theory, which emphasizes the importance of positive interaction for decision quality, and supports effective communication, training, and recognition of the BPD's role for successful village development.

This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC license.



Corresponding Author:

Nowo Heriyono,
Program Studi Sosiologi, Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik,
Universitas Sebelas Maret,
Jln. Insinyur Sutami Nomor 36A Kentingan Surakarta Kode Pos 635103, Indonesia
Email: nowo.heriyono@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is composed of both large and small regions within its governmental system. Decentralization in this country is often seen as a tangible implementation of the mechanism of separation of powers (Lonteng et al., 2022). At the lowest level of the government system, there are

villages or sub-districts (Yustisia, 2015). Village governance is a part of the sub-system of district and city governments, directly accountable to the national system (Nurfadillah & Fatimah, 2022). The goal of village development is to improve the welfare of rural communities and address poverty through the fulfillment of basic needs, infrastructure development, and local economic growth (Huda, 2019). The village government functions as the administrative center of the village, working in collaboration with the Village Consultative Body (BPD), which directly engages with the village community (Setyaningrum & Wisnaeni, 2019). As the smallest government structure in Indonesia, the village holds a strategic position, both politically and sociologically, due to its close proximity to the community (Kushandajani, 2018).

Village development has become a central focus of government policy to enhance the welfare of rural communities (Ardhi, 2024). In this context, the role of the village head as a leader at the village level is crucial, especially in decision-making related to the physical development of the village. Effective decisions in village development depend not only on the leadership of the village head but also on the interaction and cooperation with the BPD. The BPD, as the village community's representative body, plays an important role in providing input and oversight on the village head's policies. Harmonious social interaction between the village head and the BPD is necessary to make decisions that are responsive to the community's needs (Hadi, 2018). Research (Sharma & Kaur, 2024) indicates that a good working relationship and effective communication between village leaders and the BPD can enhance the quality of development decisions in rural areas. This is supported by research (Ansell et al., 2022) which notes that active involvement of the BPD in decision-making can strengthen accountability and transparency in village development.

In Indonesia, regulations regarding the working relationship between village heads and the BPD have been established, but challenges often arise in their implementation, particularly in communication and coordination. According to (Syarifuddin et al., 2022), the lack of effective social interaction between the village head and the BPD, often influenced by local political factors, is a major obstacle in village development decision-making. Therefore, it is important to analyze the working relationship and social interaction between the Village Head and the BPD in decision-making and implementing village development. This research aims to understand these dynamics and find solutions to improve cooperation, avoid conflict, and ensure the achievement of village development goals, both physical and economic.

In Tanjungharjo Village, Kapas District, Bojonegoro Regency, there are examples of less harmonious working relationships and social interactions in village development decision-making, such as the construction of roads, bridges, and other public facilities. The dependency of the village head in development decisions often creates disharmony with the BPD, while the BPD's limited operational budget is also a hindering factor. Therefore, this study will analyze how the working relationship and social interaction affect physical development decision-making in the village. The case study in Tanjungharjo Village is relevant as it illustrates the dynamics of working relationships and social interactions in physical village development decision-making. This research aims to analyze the impact of working relationships and social interactions on the decision-making process and its implications for the success of physical village development. The study's findings are expected to contribute to existing literature and provide practical recommendations to improve decision-making effectiveness at the village level.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The research employs a qualitative method with a descriptive case study approach. The study is located in Tanjungharjo Village, Kapas District, Bojonegoro Regency. This village was chosen as the research site due to its relevant context for studying the working relationship and social interactions between the village head and the Village Consultative Body (BPD) in physical development decision-making. The research subjects are village members and relevant officials involved in the decision-making process for physical development in Tanjungharjo Village, Kapas District, Bojonegoro Regency. They were selected based on specific criteria relevant to the research objectives, such as participation in

village meetings, involvement in development projects, and their positions within the village government structure.

Data collection techniques in this study involve several complementary methods to obtain accurate and in-depth data. First, the researcher conducts in-depth interviews with the research subjects, including village members, village officials, and BPD members. These interviews are semi-structured, allowing the researcher to explore information flexibly according to the flow of conversation. Second, participatory observation is used to directly observe social interactions and the decision-making process during village meetings and physical development activities. The researcher notes behaviors, group dynamics, and individual roles in the process. Third, documentation is utilized to gather data from various official village documents, such as meeting minutes, development activity reports, and decisions made by village authorities. These documents are analyzed to gain a deeper understanding of the decision-making context and its implementation.

This research uses inductive and qualitative data analysis techniques to interpret the data collected through interviews, observations, and documentation. The analysis process begins with transcription and coding to identify key themes related to the working relationship and social interactions between the village head and the BPD. Thematic analysis is then conducted to explore the dynamics of decision-making in physical village development. Data triangulation techniques are used to ensure the validity of the findings. The conclusions focus on the in-depth meaning of social interactions and the decision-making process.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The research findings indicate that the working relationship between the Village Head and the Village Consultative Body (BPD) in Tanjungharjo Village, Kapas District, Bojonegoro Regency, in decision-making for village development tends to vary. In some villages, there is a harmonious and supportive working relationship where the Village Head and BPD collaborate and complement each other in the decision-making process. However, there are also villages experiencing tension or conflict in the working relationship between the Village Head and BPD, which can affect the effectiveness of village development decision-making.

Social interaction between the Village Head and BPD in Tanjungharjo Village plays a crucial role in village development decision-making. The research shows that positive and supportive social interactions between the Village Head and BPD can create an inclusive, open, and democratic environment. This allows BPD members to feel valued, motivated, and actively contribute to the decision-making process. Conversely, negative social interactions or conflicts between the Village Head and BPD can hinder participation and collaboration in decision-making within the village.

Several factors influencing the working relationship and social interactions between the Village Head and BPD were identified in the study. These factors include differing views and interests between the Village Head and BPD, lack of effective communication, dominance or authoritarianism in decision-making by the Village Head, and personal or political conflicts among individuals involved in the decision-making process. These factors can obstruct the creation of a harmonious working relationship and positive social interactions between the Village Head and BPD in Tanjungharjo Village.

The working relationship between the Village Head and BPD in the decision-making for physical village development shows that the Village Head acts as the executive leader responsible for implementing physical development programs, while the BPD functions as the community representative body providing input, advice, and oversight on development activities. Cooperation between the Village Head and BPD in physical development decision-making is crucial for reaching consensus and ensuring the sustainability of development programs. The Village Head needs to involve the BPD in the decision-making process to ensure community participation in determining physical development priorities, gathering information, and conducting needs analysis for the village. However, the study identified several challenges in the working relationship between the Village Head and BPD,

including differing views and interests, lack of understanding of the BPD's roles and functions, and insufficient communication and coordination between the two parties.

To address these challenges, steps such as improving understanding of the BPD's roles and functions through training and socialization, enhancing communication and coordination between the Village Head and BPD through regular meetings and discussion forums, and increasing active participation of BPD members in decision-making are necessary. In conclusion, a good working relationship between the Village Head and BPD is essential for effective decision-making in the implementation of physical village development. Cooperation, communication, and active participation between both parties are key factors that can enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of physical village development. In this context, the role of the Village Head as the executive leader and the BPD as the community representative body must support and collaborate to achieve better village development outcomes.

The findings of this research indicate that the working relationship and social interaction between the Village Head and the Village Consultative Body (BPD) have a significant impact on village development decision-making. These findings align with Social Exchange Theory, which explains that effective interactions among individuals within an organization can enhance decision quality and organizational performance (Cropanzano & Mitchell, 2005). According to this theory, positive and mutually supportive reciprocal relationships between the Village Head and BPD can improve decision-making effectiveness and the implementation of village development programs. Recent research by (Miller & Barbour, 2014) supports these findings, demonstrating that open communication and good coordination among organizational members are crucial for achieving optimal outcomes in the decision-making process. Effective communication between various parties can reduce conflicts and enhance collaboration, which is consistent with this study's results emphasizing the importance of communication between the Village Head and BPD for successful village development.

Additionally, (Awasthi & Walumbwa, 2022) identify that training and development can improve leadership skills and social interactions within local government organizations, similar to the study's recommendation for enhancing the leadership skills of the Village Head and BPD members through training (Smith & Johnson, 2021). This research indicates that efforts to improve communication and negotiation skills can facilitate better working relationships and enhance decision-making effectiveness. (Anselm, 2022) highlights the importance of the BPD's role in village development decision-making and shows that recognizing and appropriately delegating authority to the BPD can increase their contributions to the process (Kapayi, 2023). These findings are consistent with this study's recommendation to strengthen the role and functions of the BPD in decision-making. Overall, this research supports the existing literature on the importance of effective communication, leadership skills, and the role of the BPD in village development decision-making processes, underscoring the need for an inclusive and democratic approach in decision-making.

4. CONCLUSION

The working relationship between the Village Head and the Village Consultative Body (BPD) in Tanjungharjo Village varies and affects the effectiveness of village development decision-making. A harmonious and mutually supportive relationship between the Village Head and BPD contributes to an inclusive and democratic decision-making environment. Conversely, tensions or conflicts in the working relationship can hinder participation and collaboration. Several factors influencing this relationship include differing viewpoints, lack of communication, dominance by the Village Head, and personal or political conflicts. To address these challenges, it is necessary to enhance understanding of the BPD's role, improve communication, and encourage active participation in decision-making. This research aligns with Social Exchange Theory, which emphasizes that positive and supportive interactions improve decision quality. Additionally, the findings underscore the importance of effective communication, training, and recognition of the BPD's role in the village development decision-making process. An inclusive and democratic approach is crucial for achieving success in village development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our sincere gratitude to all parties who contributed to this research. We thank the Village Head and the Village Consultative Body (BPD) in Tanjungharjo Village for their cooperation and active participation throughout the research process. The experience and insights provided have been invaluable in understanding the dynamics of working relationships and social interactions in village development decision-making. We also appreciate the contributions of those who assisted with data collection, analysis, and interpretation of the research findings. We hope that the results of this study will provide useful and constructive recommendations for improving decision-making effectiveness and achieving successful village development in the future.

REFERENCES

- Ansell, C., Sørensen, E., Torfing, J., Ansell, C., Sørensen, E., & Torfing, J. (2022). The Key Role of Local Governance in Achieving the SDGs. In *Co-Creation for Sustainability* (pp. 9–22). Emerald Publishing Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-80043-798-220220002>
- Anselm, S. B. (2022). Mainstreaming Civic Engagement into Water Supply Management in Kondoa District Council, Tanzania. *Journal of Public Administration and Governance*, 12(4), Article 4. <https://doi.org/10.5296/jpag.v12i4.20305>
- Ardhi, F. (2024). *Tinjauan Fiqh Siyasah Terhadap Hubungan Kerja Sama Pemerintah Desa Dan Badan Permusyawaratan Desa Dalam Pelaksanaan Pembangunan (Studi Di Desa Hurun Kecamatan Teluk Pandan Kabupaten Pesawaran)* [Diploma, UIN RADEN INTAN LAMPUNG]. <http://repository.radenintan.ac.id/32987/>
- Awasthi, P., & Walumbwa, F. O. (2022). Antecedents and consequences of servant leadership in local governance: Evidence from three case studies. *Public Administration Review*, 82(6), 1077–1094. <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13552>
- Cropanzano, R., & Mitchell, M. S. (2005). Social Exchange Theory: An Interdisciplinary Review. *Journal of Management*, 31(6), 874–900. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0149206305279602>
- Hadi, S. (2018). Peranan Badan Permusyawaratan Desa Dalam Pembentukan Peraturan Desa. *Varia Hukum*, 2(39), Article 39. <https://doi.org/10.32502/jvh.v2i39.1098>
- Huda, K. (2019). *Analisis Hubungan Kerja Kepala Desa dan Badan Permusyawaratan Desa (BPD) Dalam Penetapan Kebijakan Desa Di Desa Petala Bumi Kecamatan Seberida Kabupaten Indragiri Hulu Tahun 2018* [Other, Universitas Islam Riau]. <https://repository.uir.ac.id/7400/>
- Kapayi, N. I. (2023). *The assessment of public participation as a model to enhance development in local government: The case of Raymond Mhlaba local municipality in the Eastern Cape*. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/595878538.pdf>
- Kushandajani. (2018). *Kewenangan Desa dan Penyelenggaraan Pemerintahan Desa dalam Perspektif UU No. 6 Tahun 2014 tentang Desa*. Departemen Politik dan Pemerintahan FISIP Universitas Diponegoro.
- Lonteng, T. J., Sumampow, I., & Kumayas, N. (2022). Peran Badan Permusyawaratan Desa Dalam Pengawasan Pengelolaan Bantuan Langsung Tunai Dana Desa Dalam Menanggulangi Dampak Covid19 (Di Desa Radey Kecamatan Tenga Kabupaten Minahasa Selatan). *GOVERNANCE*, 2(1), Article 1. <https://ejournal.unsrat.ac.id/v3/index.php/governance/article/view/37901>
- Miller, K., & Barbour, J. (2014). *Organizational Communication: Approaches and Processes*. Cengage Learning.
- Nurfadillah, M., & Fatimah, S. (2022). Analisis Pelaksanaan Kerjasama Kepala Desa Dengan Badan Permusyawaratan Desa (Bpd) Dalam Pembangunan Desa (Studi Pada Desa Sari Mulya Kecamatan Sungai Loban Kabupaten Tanah Bumbu). *Jurnal Ilmiah Ekonomi Bisnis*, 8(2), 180–197. <https://doi.org/10.35972/jieb.v8i2.723>
- Setyaningrum, C. A., & Wisnaeni, F. (2019). Pelaksanaan Fungsi Badan Permusyawaratan Desa Terhadap Penyelenggaraan Pemerintahan Desa. *Jurnal Pembangunan Hukum Indonesia*, 1(2), 158–170. <https://doi.org/10.14710/jphi.vi12.158-170>
- Sharma, R. K., & Kaur, S. (2024). Analysing the mediating role of organisational citizenship behaviour between transformational leadership and education 4.0 using PLS-SEM approach. *International Journal of Educational Management*, 38(2), 391–412. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJEM-07-2023-0322>
- Syarifuddin, H., Jabbar, A., & Ikbal, M. (2022). Peran Badan Permusyawaratan Desa Talawe Kecamatan Watang Sidenreng Kabupaten Sidenreng Rappang. *PRAJA: Jurnal Ilmiah Pemerintahan*, 10(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.55678/prj.v10i2.675>
- Yustisia, T. V. (2015). *Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014 tentang Desa dan Peraturan Terkait*. VisiMedia.