

## Original Research Article

## Community Participation Policy in Village Development

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## Article History

Received: 06.12.2025

Accepted: 04.02.2026

Published: 06.02.2026

## Journal homepage:

<https://www.easpublisher.com>

## Quick Response Code



**Abstract:** The research on Community Participation in Village Development in Ngegedhawe Village is motivated by the declining level of community participation. The researcher wants to analyze the factors causing the level of community participation in Ngegedhawe Village in development based on Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning villages. The strong dominance of community leaders in the village, which often hinders development, is greatly influenced by political, economic, social, and cultural factors that often cannot distinguish between space and time in their implementation. As in the decision-making process through deliberation for development, which can affect economic levels and the lives of village communities, representatives of community leaders who are present sometimes do not accommodate the aspirations of the village community. The purpose of this study is to evaluate community participation based on Law No. 6 of 2014 in the development of Ngegedhawe Village. Describe and analyze factors that influence community participation in development in Ngegedhawe Village. This study uses William Dunn's theory with indicators of effectiveness, efficiency, responsiveness, accuracy, adequacy, and equity. This study uses a qualitative descriptive research method with 50 selected informants. The results of this study indicate that community participation policies have been proven to increase citizen involvement in development planning and implementation. Community participation contributes to more optimal resource utilization. However, efficiency is sometimes hampered by lengthy coordination processes and complex bureaucracy. Involved communities can directly express their aspirations, making policies more responsive to local needs. However, there are differences in responsiveness across community groups, particularly among those who are less informed or less active in participation forums. Community participation helps distribute resources and development roles more equitably. However, inequalities persist due to differences in access to information, participation capabilities, and socioeconomic support. Development based on community participation generally meets local needs and is more targeted than development without participation. Some programs, however, still require adjustments to be more equitable and tailored to the specific needs of marginalized groups.

**Keywords:** Participation, Development, Public Policy.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Community participation, with a focus on rural areas, is highly desirable to improve welfare in an integrated and comprehensive manner, enabling the sustainability of development programs and ensuring they are felt equally by the community. This is in line with Village Development Law Number 6 of 2014, which explains the objectives of village development, namely improving the welfare of village communities and the quality of human life, as well as poverty alleviation through the fulfillment of basic needs, the development of village facilities and infrastructure, the development of

local economic potential, and the sustainable use of natural resources and the environment. To achieve development, the government allocates budgets, including village funds originating from the State Budget (APBN) and funds sourced from tax revenue sharing from the Regional Budget (APBD).

Ngegedhawe Village is located in Aesesa District, Nagekeo Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province, and has potential in agriculture, animal husbandry, plantations, and tourism. It covers an area of 17,000 ha, administratively consisting of 4 (four) hamlets and 13

(thirteen) neighborhood units (RT). It has 251 families with 1,154 inhabitants (Data Source: Ngegedhawe RPJMDes). Administratively, the potential is sufficient to support the community. However, as a supporting factor, the potential can be utilized well if access to development, such as infrastructure and facilities, is well prepared.

In Nugroho's view (2015), to develop community participation in development planning, both formal and informal communities are crucial, especially in influencing and mobilizing all communities to engage with their environments to support the success of government development programs. The influence of community leaders in the village is powerful and remains so, often serving as a role model in implementing activities. The strong influence of leaders significantly undermines the development process, causing it to run suboptimally and sometimes not in line with expectations. In the implementation carried out by the RT, changing a habit becomes difficult, and this is felt by RT administrators who involve the community only by waiting for orders, lacking a critical attitude toward their ongoing aspirations. Many development programs are not optimal, overlapping, and have not been maximally successful. It takes a long time to change this pattern and requires a lot of money.

The strong dominance of community leaders in villages, which often hinders development, is heavily influenced by political, economic, social, and cultural factors, which often cannot distinguish between space and time. As in the decision-making process through deliberation for development that can affect the economy and the lives of village communities, often the representatives of community leaders who are present sometimes do not accommodate the aspirations of the village community. This prompted researchers to select Ngegedhawe Village, Aesesa District, Nagekeo Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province, as a case study to evaluate the level of community participation in the village's development process.

In this research, the author has several objectives, including evaluating community participation in the development of Ngegedhawe Village in accordance with Law Number 6 of 2014 and describing and analyzing factors that influence community participation in development in Ngegedhawe Village.

The expected benefits of this writing and research are, in theory, to add to the scientific treasury for the development and refinement of theories in public administration, particularly those related to the evaluation of community participation in development. In practice, this research can provide input for academics, stakeholders, politicians, and the public on community participation in development. It will also add to the literature and serve as a reference for researchers and future work on the evaluation of community participation in development.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Participation is a key concept in development and a characteristic of good governance. Etymologically, participation comes from the English word "participation," which means "taking part." In the Indonesian dictionary, "participation" is explained as: the act of taking part in an activity, participation, or role. In general, the meaning of community participation in development is the participation of all members or representatives of the community in making decisions in the planning and management process of development, including deciding on activity plans to be implemented, the benefits to be obtained, and how to implement and evaluate the results of their implementation. Community participation in regional development requires understanding of what the government has carried out in the region, because, however inseparable the government's role in development, the community's existence cannot be underestimated in national life and development activities.

In practice, community participation within the UNSD framework can occur at various levels of involvement. At the most basic level, participation is informative, in which the community receives only information about development programs. The next level is consultative participation, in which the community is asked to provide opinions or input, though the final decision still rests with the government or authorities. At a higher level, participation is collaborative, where the community is actively involved in program planning and implementation. The ultimate level is empowerment-based participation, in which the community plays a significant role in decision-making and in managing development resources.

Overall, the theory of participation within the UNSD framework aims to improve the quality of development by making it more contextual, equitable, and sustainable. By actively involving communities, development focuses not only on achieving short-term targets but also on strengthening long-term social and institutional capacity. Therefore, participation is seen as a strategic step to ensure that development is truly oriented towards human needs and able to withstand future challenges.

Policy is a provision that contains principles to guide action, formulated in a planned and consistent manner to achieve specific goals. Policy issues depend on the pattern of involvement of policy actors (policy stakeholders), because they influence and are influenced by government decisions, the policy environment is a specific context in which events surrounding policy issues occur, influence and are influenced by policy makers and public policy, so that the policy system is a dialectical process where the objective and subjective dimensions of policy making cannot be separated from its practice.

Soumelis, as quoted by Mardikanto and Soebianto (2013), defines evaluation as a decision-making

process through comparing observations of an object. Evaluation is expected to provide a thorough understanding of the program being implemented. Evaluation helps determine the success or failure of a development program, identifying the root causes and solutions. As explained by Abidin (2012), evaluation aims to develop and refine policies, focusing not only on a specific stage of the policy process but also on the entire process, thereby identifying successes and failures in policy implementation. Evaluation is part of the process of determining the quality of development based on benchmarking criteria, allowing the results to inform future policies or provide input for future improvements. Evaluation is typically used to collect, identify, analyze, and summarize information obtained from an activity, serving as a basis for consideration in subsequent activities.

Galtung defines development, as quoted in Trijono, as an effort to fulfill basic human needs, both individually and collectively, in ways that do not cause damage to either social life or the natural environment. Development is growth that can lead to improvement, carried out by a community organization. Development has a special meaning for rural communities; village community development is all development activities taking place in the village, encompassing all aspects of community life.

Villages in Indonesia have a long history dating back to prehistoric times, with unique local wisdom and diversity. However, before this law, the status of villages was often unclear within the state system. Law Number 6 of 2014 was enacted to recognize the existence of customary and administrative villages, replacing previous regulations such as Law Number 5 of 1979, and to support the decentralization of power to the village level for the welfare of the community. Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages is an important legal foundation in Indonesia that comprehensively regulates the implementation of village governance, development, and empowerment of village communities, as well as strengthening village autonomy within the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. This law consists of 112 articles that regulate the principles of regulation, the status of villages (including customary villages), village administration, village authority, the implementation of village governance, village rights and obligations, village finances (including Village Funds), village assets, and village development.

### 3. METHOD

#### 3.1 Research Design

The method used in this research is a mixed methods approach. As Creswell states, mixed-methods research is an approach that combines quantitative and qualitative methods. This approach combines the strengths of both research approaches, making the overall strength of this research greater than qualitative and quantitative

research alone and more comprehensive than simply collecting and analyzing two types of data.

#### 3.2 Research Location

The research location is the place where the research will be conducted. This research was conducted in Ngegedhawe Village, Aesesa District, Nagekeo Regency.

#### 3.3 Research Focus

The focus of this research is the Ngegedhawe Village community's participation in development under Law Number 6 of 2014, and the factors that influence this participation.

#### 3.4 Types and Sources of Research Data

Based on its source, there are two types of data: primary and secondary. Primary data is obtained directly from the source. This research used interviews, questionnaires, and observation to collect the necessary data. Secondary data used in this study were obtained from library materials, literature, previous research, books, and other sources.

#### 3.5 Research Instruments

The research instruments used were the researcher, interview guides, questionnaires, and supporting materials. The researcher also used a Likert-scale instrument, with a score of 1 to 5. A score of 1 indicates that the respondent strongly disagrees, while a score of 5 indicates that the respondent strongly agrees.

#### 3.6 Research Informants

The researcher selected 50 respondents for this study, namely 1 head of Ngegedhawe Village, 4 members of the Ngegedhawe Village Deliberative Body, 15 community leaders, 15 community members, and 15 youth leaders.

#### 3.7 Sampling Techniques

In this study, the sampling technique was non-probability, with sampling not guided by the rules of opportunity. To determine the research informants, the purposive sampling method was used, as the samples were based on a definite assessment of the population as a whole.

#### 3.8 Data Collection Technique

In this study, data collection techniques included interviews, observations, questionnaires, and documentation.

#### 3.9 Data Analysis Techniques

Data processing in this study used both qualitative and quantitative methods to achieve the researcher's research objectives. The existing data processing was then interpreted into concepts that could support the discussion object. Data analysis in this study was conducted using tabulation studies. This technique was chosen to systematically and measurably evaluate the

level of community participation in development in Ngegedhawe Village. Variables and indicators of community participation were derived from respondents' data and compiled in tabular form to observe patterns of community involvement clearly.

#### 4. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The results of the study provide an overview of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages in Ngegedhawe Village, which, in principle, has opened space for community participation in village development and still needs further evaluation for improvement. Evaluation indicators for participation in development in Ngegedhawe Village, based on William Dunn's theory as explained in the previous chapter, consist of effectiveness, efficiency, equity, adequacy, responsiveness, and accuracy, which can be used as a reference for analyzing and describing the results of the study with the researcher's findings. The results of observations, questionnaire distribution, and interviews conducted by the researcher have found field facts that can be used as analysis material for the research focus. The following researcher can present the study's results.

The effectiveness of participation policies in development in Ngegedhawe Village, Aesesa District, Nagekeo Regency, as explained in the previous chapter, is used to measure the achievement of the research focus. The village government stated that it always provides space for the community in development planning, starting with collecting aspirations from each neighborhood unit (RT). Each resident is allowed to convey community problems and needs. After that, a Village Development Planning Meeting (Musrenbangdes) is held, attended by representatives of residents, village officials, and the Village Consultative Body (BPD), to agree on development priorities. Then, the Deputy of the Ngegedhawe Village Consultative Body added that, in general, the village development programs we have implemented have been running quite well and have achieved the expected goals.

Field findings indicate that, despite the majority of respondents responding affirmatively, the community provided opinions on their involvement in forums held by the Village Government. This study indicates that community trust in the village government influences the effectiveness of participation. Overall, the study's results indicate that the effectiveness aspect in evaluating community participation in development in Ngegedhawe Village falls in the high category, as indicated by the interval value. However, improvements are needed to facilitate active, inclusive, and sustainable community involvement. Therefore, strengthening socialization mechanisms, increasing community capacity, and improving village governance are needed to ensure that participation policies truly provide communities with a role in development.

The research results show that the efficiency of village development participation policies is significantly influenced by the ability of village governments and communities to utilize resources, including time, energy, and budget, to achieve optimal development outcomes. The low utilization of information technology also impacts efficiency. Manually disseminating information causes delays and unequal access to information by the community, leading to barriers to participation due to a lack of or delayed information. However, the use of digital media can accelerate the delivery of aspirations, shorten the communication chain, and reduce operational costs.

Based on a Likert-scale measurement, the level of efficiency in the development of Ngegedhawe Village in the study evaluating community participation in development is in the very high category, with a value of 89.2%. The results of the study indicate that the efficiency of the village development participation policy is classified as very high. Although participation has become part of the development culture, its implementation needs to be further optimized in terms of time, costs, and human resource utilization. To increase efficiency, improvements in the management of the participatory process and more optimal use of technology are needed so that the participation policy truly provides added value to village development.

Responsiveness here encompasses the extent to which the village government responds to community aspirations, needs, and complaints, as well as the extent to which the community responds quickly to invitations, information, and changes in development policies. Research findings indicate that despite the availability of participation mechanisms, responsiveness is high, with a high percentage of those in the agree category influenced by several key factors.

Village government responsiveness to community aspirations remains selective. Some aspirations are readily addressed, particularly those raised by community leaders or influential groups. However, aspirations from groups such as women, youth, and the general public often receive inadequate attention. This situation demonstrates that participatory policies have not created a responsive and equitable space for all segments of society.

Regarding the mechanism for conveying aspirations, research shows that the process of collecting public complaints and ideas has not been systematically implemented. The level of transparency and communication of the village government greatly influences responsiveness. Villages that habitually convey information openly through information boards, live announcements, or digital media demonstrate a higher level of responsiveness. Furthermore, the village government's adaptation to changing community needs is also considered less responsive. Some development programs need to be adjusted to changing socioeconomic



conditions, such as the need for access to clean water or skills training.

The research results show that responsiveness in village development participation is already high but could be improved. Village governments need to be more proactive in opening communication spaces, accommodating various community groups, and expediting the process of conveying and addressing aspirations. With greater responsiveness, development participation policies can be more inclusive, adaptive, and tailored to community needs. Equitable development participation is strongly influenced by access to information, community capacity, and the effectiveness of the participatory mechanisms used—efforts to achieve equitable distribution need to focus on increasing access to information and empowering vulnerable groups.

Inequality in participation across community groups remains quite evident. In terms of regional equity, participation is higher in areas with good access to information and strong relationships between government officials and the community. The participatory mechanisms used are not fully inclusive. Equitable participation in development received a high score in the Likert scale study. Equity is strongly influenced by access to information, the community's socioeconomic characteristics, the government's facilitation capabilities, and the quality of participatory mechanisms.

To achieve greater equity, strategies are needed that encourage the fair involvement of all groups, including improving development literacy, expanding the reach of information, and designing more inclusive and adaptive participation mechanisms. Equitable participation across community groups must also be optimized. Community groups with higher levels of education and stronger social positions are more active in voicing their aspirations. At the same time, women, people with low incomes, and some youth tend to play a more passive role. This is influenced not only by knowledge but also by social norms and local power structures that still limit certain groups' equal participation.

Equitable participation in development is greatly influenced by access to information, community capacity, and the effectiveness of the participatory mechanisms used. Efforts to achieve equitable participation need to focus on increasing access to information and empowering vulnerable groups.

Based on the research results, several aspects of community participation in development require improvement. While participation has increased in some areas, gaps remain that hinder optimal community involvement. The research shows that community involvement in the planning stage is uneven. Most participants in the deliberation forums were community

leaders or individuals accustomed to participating in village activities. In terms of participation quality, community participants in development activities have not yet fully contributed substantive opinions. Local government support in facilitating participation has not been optimal.

Socialization activities were not sustained. This indicates weaknesses in participatory governance, resulting in suboptimal outcomes. The facilities and infrastructure built were not optimal, including the clearing of new land for community plantations, the provision of access to facilitate the transport of commodities, and the provision of clean water. Overall, based on field data collected using a Likert scale, the level of adequate development participation is high but can be optimized by considering the studies described by the researcher above.

Research findings indicate that some development programs have been well-targeted, particularly in sectors directly related to basic needs, such as farm road infrastructure, improved educational facilities, and healthcare services. Communities have experienced direct benefits from these programs, including improved access, greater mobility, and greater time and cost efficiency. This indicates that some development outcomes have had straightforward utility. However, the level of accuracy of results is not uniform across all types of activities. In some programs, particularly those related to economic empowerment and community capacity building, the benefits have not been fully maximized. Some activities have been implemented without ongoing support, resulting in short-lived or unfeasible benefits for the target groups.

In terms of public perception, most respondents acknowledged the tangible benefits of development, but also saw room for improvement to make development outcomes more effective and provide long-term value. The public hopes that future programs will be better tailored to field conditions, the needs of vulnerable groups, and opportunities to improve well-being.

Overall, the accuracy of development outcomes is very high, but the resulting utility needs improvement. According to the Likert scale, the accuracy level in research evaluating community participation in development is very high, with a score of 90%. To increase utility, needs-based planning, stronger community involvement, and oversight are needed to ensure development outcomes truly meet objectives and have long-term impacts.

After conducting a study on the first focus, the general results are as follows:

**Table 1: Overall Percentage Results of Variables**

No.	Variables	%	Category
1.	Accuracy	90%	Very high
2.	Effectiveness	79.6%	Tall
3.	Equality	74.4%	Tall
4.	Responsive	77.6%	Tall
5.	Responsive	89.2%	Very high
6.	Adequacy	75.6%	Tall

From the table above, it can be explained that the accuracy variable obtained a very high category, the effectiveness variable obtained a high category, the equity variable obtained a high category, the responsiveness variable obtained a high category, the efficiency variable obtained a very high category, and the adequacy variable obtained a high category. These results are pure findings from the community, carried out by researchers to evaluate community participation in development in Ngegedhawe Village, and serve as a reference for the researcher's conclusions.

The results of the study show that other factors influence community participation in development in Ngegedhawe Village and positively affect the distribution of roles and resources and the utilization of development. However, equality is not yet complete across all aspects.

First, regarding role distribution, participation policies have encouraged broader community involvement across the development cycle, including planning, implementation, and monitoring. Citizens from various groups, including community leaders, women, and youth, now have the opportunity to express their aspirations and participate in deciding development priorities. However, research has found that active participation remains dominated by groups with more experience or better access to information, so role equality is not yet fully optimal.

Second, regarding resource distribution, participatory policies promote transparency in the allocation of development funds and resources. Communities have access to information on planned village budget use and can provide input. This enhances a sense of fairness and ensures that the majority of resources are used according to priority community needs. However, some residents in remote areas or with limited access to information still experience limitations in resource utilization, resulting in less than comprehensive equity.

Third, in terms of the utilization of development outcomes, community participation helps ensure that outcomes are more targeted and beneficial to a broader range of parties. Built infrastructure, such as educational, health, and public facilities, is used by diverse community groups, reflecting a relatively good level of equity. However, some economic empowerment or training programs are still perceived as unequally distributed due to limited mentoring capacity and access to information.

Fourth, socio-cultural. Ngegedhawe Village embraces social values such as cooperation, togetherness, and social solidarity, which have traditionally served as social capital for development. These values encourage the community to participate in development activities voluntarily. However, social change, shifts in cultural values, and a diminishing sense of collective spirit have affected community participation.

Fifth, the availability of time and the community's busyness are important considerations. Most people in Ngegedhawe Village have primary livelihoods as farmers, gardeners, livestock breeders, construction workers, and daily laborers, which take up time and energy. This condition often limits the community's ability to participate directly in development activities, even when they desire to do so. Therefore, flexibility in the timing of development activities is an aspect that needs to be considered, especially in program implementation, which requires a thorough review of the work calendar.

Overall, the community participation policy in Ngegedhawe Village has improved equity in the distribution of roles and resources, and in the utilization of development and socio-cultural aspects, time availability, and community activities, although some limitations remain. Efforts to improve more inclusive participatory mechanisms are needed so that all villagers can fairly and optimally benefit from development.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Community participation policies have been proven to increase citizen involvement in development planning and implementation. Development decisions become more aligned with community needs and priorities. Community participation contributes to more optimal resource utilization. A spirit of cooperation is essential for more efficient program implementation. Planned and targeted participation can accelerate development implementation, reduce waste, and improve the quality of development outcomes. Development projects that are not completed on time will result in budget wastage.

Involved communities can directly express their aspirations, making policies more responsive to local needs. However, there are differences in responsiveness across community groups, particularly among those who are less informed or less active in participation forums. Community participation helps distribute resources and development roles more equitably. However, inequalities

persist due to differences in access to information, participation capabilities, and socioeconomic support.

Participatory development generally meets local needs and is more targeted than development without participation. However, some programs still require adjustments to be more equitable and tailored to the specific needs of marginalized groups. Other factors that positively influence community participation in development in Ngegedhawe Village also promote equitable distribution of roles, resources, and development benefits. However, the level of equity is not yet entirely uniform across all aspects.

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**Cite This Article:** Wendelino Firman Jawa Sa, Bonaventura Ngarawula, Roos Widjajani (2026). Community Participation Policy in Village Development. *EAS J Humanit Cult Stud*, 8(1), 31-37.

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