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## Community Participation in the Implementation of Village Development Deliberations in Ujung Kota Village Surabaya

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### ABSTRACT

The Village Development Conference is an annual forum that involves the people of Ujung Village in the development planning process. The implementation of Village Development Planning Conference aims to increase community participation in determining development priorities in accordance with local needs. This study aims to analyze community participation in Village Development Planning Conference, in particular the extent to which their active involvement supports an inclusive and sustainable development planning process. In Ujung Village, Surabaya City, Village Development Planning Conference is held regularly every year as part of a series of regional development plans. This process involves various parties, including village officials, community leaders, RT/RW, and residents from various social backgrounds. The theory used is the Community Participation Theory by Oakley (1991), which emphasizes the importance of active community involvement in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of development. Three main indicators are used to measure participation: media participation, participation in the process, and access to decision-making. This study is a qualitative descriptive study with direct observation methods and document studies. The results of the study show that although Village Development Planning Conference provides space for the community to participate, involvement is still limited. To increase the effectiveness of participation, more intensive socialization, involvement of vulnerable groups, and transparency in decision-making are needed. With these steps, Village Development Planning Conference can become a more inclusive and empowering instrument in supporting local development. Community-based development not only produces immediate benefits, but also improves their quality of life

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Village Level Development Conference is a formal discussion forum that involves the community in the development planning process at the village level. The implementation of Village Development Planning Conference aims to increase community participation in determining development priorities that are in accordance with local needs (Aziza 2024). In Ujung Village, Surabaya City, Village Development Planning Conference is held regularly every year as part of a series of regional development plans. This process involves various parties, including village officials, community leaders, RT/RW, and residents from various social backgrounds. The implementation of Village Development Planning Conference in Ujung Village has followed the stages that have been set, starting from the collection of proposals, discussions, to the determination of development priorities. This forum is designed to provide a space for the community to convey their aspirations. However, there are still several challenges in its implementation, such as low levels of citizen participation, lack of representation of certain groups, and limited budget allocation. These obstacles often hinder the effectiveness of Village Development Planning Conference in achieving inclusive development goals. Therefore, the study of community participation in Village Development Planning Conference is important to understand the extent to which this forum can contribute to improving the quality of development at the local level.

One of the main problems in the implementation of the Village Level Development Conference in Ujung Village is the low level of community participation. Many residents are not present or less active in discussions, so development proposals tend to be dominated by certain groups. This raises the question: whether the current Village Development Planning Conference mechanism is inclusive enough and able to accommodate the needs of the entire community. In addition, the lack of understanding of some residents about the importance of Village Development Planning Conference is also a significant obstacle. Another problem that needs to be considered is the effectiveness of the implementation of Village Development Planning Conference in producing development programs that truly answer local needs.

Whether the development priorities resulting from Village Development Planning Conference reflect the aspirations of the majority of the community, how do budget limitations affect the selection process of development proposals. These questions are important to analyze in order to evaluate the extent to which Village Development Planning Conference can function as an instrument of sustainable and participatory development.

The implementation of the Village Level Development Conference has a significant impact on the success of development at the village level (Mashudi and Paselle 2024). One of the positive impacts that can be observed is the increase in transparency in decision-making related to development. By involving the community directly, Village Development Planning Conference allows for higher accountability in the use of the public budget (Silvia and Myrna 2023). In addition, this process also encourages the community to be more concerned about the development of their environment. However, negative impacts can also occur if Village Development Planning Conference is not implemented properly. Inequality of participation or dominance of certain groups can cause the results of Village Development Planning Conference not to reflect the needs of the entire community. In addition, if the proposals agreed in the Village Development Planning Conference are not implemented properly by the government, this can reduce the level of public trust in the participatory process. Therefore, it is important to evaluate the impact of Village Development Planning Conference thoroughly to identify aspects that need to be improved so that this forum can function optimally in supporting inclusive and sustainable development.

Efforts to increase community participation in the Village Level Development Deliberations require more intensive socialization regarding the importance of this forum. The village government can use more effective communication media, such as social media, to invite citizen participation. In addition, the involvement of community leaders and local institutions, such as RT/RW, can also help increase community presence and involvement in Village Development Planning Conference. In the long term, training or workshops that provide residents with an understanding of the development process can also help increase participation (Syaifuddin 2024). Another solution that can be

applied is to increase the representation of groups that have been underrepresented, such as women, groups with disabilities, and the younger generation. In addition, the decision-making mechanism in Village Development Planning Conference also needs to be designed to be more inclusive and transparent. The village government can develop a proposal assessment system based on priority needs and objective data, so that the results of the Village Development Planning Conference truly reflect the needs of the majority of the community. With this approach, Village Development Planning Conference can function as a more effective instrument in supporting inclusive and sustainable local development.

## **METHODS**

The research method used is qualitative with a descriptive approach. The research theory used is the Community Participation Theory by Oakley (1991) which states that community participation is the active involvement of individuals or groups in the development process, which includes the planning, implementation, and evaluation stages (Rahmawati, Mone, and Mustari 2021). There are three indicators of community participation: (i) media of community participation, (ii) community participation in the process and (iii) access to participation in decision-making. Data collection in this study was carried out through direct observation and document study. Direct observation was used to monitor the progress of the Village Planning and Development Conference in Ujung Village, including the dynamics of discussions, the level of community involvement, and the decision-making process. The researcher noted various aspects of Village Development Planning Conference, such as the number of participants attended, the pattern of interaction between residents, and their contributions in discussing local issues. In addition, document studies are carried out to collect secondary data in the form of official Village Development Planning Conference reports, village policies, and development plans that have been prepared. This data is used to analyze the extent to which community participation is reflected in formal documents. During the observation process, the researcher also recorded important findings, such as barriers to citizen participation and initiative in the deliberation process. All data are collected

systematically to provide an accurate picture of the form and level of community participation. The combination of direct observation methods and document studies aims to produce objective and verified data. The data analysis technique in this study follows the steps described by Miles and Huberman (1994) (Miles, Huberman, and Saldana 2014), namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. Information from observations and documents is sorted out to weed out irrelevant data, so that only important information is retained. The data that has been reduced is then compiled and presented in the form of tables, graphs, and descriptive narratives. Conclusions were drawn by analyzing the data that had been presented, looking for patterns of community involvement, and identifying supporting and inhibiting factors. Thus, it is able to present comprehensive findings related to community participation in Village Development Planning Conference in Ujung Village.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### *Community Participation in the Implementation of Village Development Planning Conference in Ujung Village*

Community empowerment is a process designed to increase the capacity of individuals or groups to be able to take control of their lives and actively contribute to social, economic, and political development (Hidayat et al. 2025). According to Oakley and Marsden (1984), empowerment is not only limited to providing material assistance, but also includes efforts to build critical awareness, skills, and access to resources (Ibrahim, Rifa'i, and Dewi 2023). This process aims to create an independent society, able to solve problems independently, and play an active role in decision-making. This perspective is often associated with bottom-up theory, where society plays a role, not just an object, in development. In addition, empowerment also focuses on social transformation, so that the community not only receives benefits, but also has control over the development programs carried out (Marofah and Ma'ruf 2023).

Community empowerment has various dimensions, including economic, social, political, and cultural. Friedmann (1992) highlights the importance of economic empowerment through increasing people's access to productive assets, such as land, capital, and education, as the first step in

overcoming poverty (Amelia, Oktarahmadini, and Harahap 2025). In the social dimension, empowerment includes strengthening social networks, increasing solidarity, and eliminating stigmas that weaken community capacity. Empowerment strategies include critical education, skills training, increased community participation in development programs, and strengthening local institutions. Research conducted by Narayan (2002) and cited by (Ramadhanti 2020) also emphasizes the importance of sustainability in empowerment, by ensuring that communities have the ability to sustain the changes that have been achieved through the programs provided.

Although community empowerment is considered an effective strategy, its implementation often faces various challenges (Sujianto et al. 2024). One of the main challenges is resistance from those who have an interest in maintaining the status quo, such as local elites or certain institutions that feel threatened by the increasing independence of society. In addition, Chambers (1997) notes that the top-down approach, which is still dominant, often hinders local initiatives because decisions are taken without directly involving the community (Hendra and Fahlevi 2024). Another factor that is an obstacle in community empowerment is the limited resources, such as funds, time, and experts, which can hinder the implementation of the program. To address these challenges, an inclusive, collaborative, and local needs-based approach is needed, so that communities can be fully involved in every stage of development.

The Village Development Conference in Ujung Village will be held on July 23, August 20, September 12, October 24, and December 30, 2024, involving 30 participants every month from various elements of society and the government. This forum is the main forum to identify development needs, where residents can submit priority proposals that will be realized through the allocation of the village budget. This process reflects a commitment to empowering communities to determine the direction of development in their region. The stages of Village Development Planning Conference implementation begin with the collection of proposals from the RW chairman, which is then prioritized based on urgency and impact on the community. These priority proposals are then incorporated into the Development Planning Deliberation application, which is a city-level development planning platform. The types of projects discussed include infrastructure, such as the repair of paving roads and waterways, as well as community empowerment programs. In addition to being a planning forum, Village Development Planning Conference also serves as a dialogue space between the community, local leaders, and government officials. The involvement of the chairman of RW, LPMK, and other stakeholders ensures that the proposals submitted are in accordance with the real needs of the community. However, time and budget limitations are often an obstacle in accommodating all citizens' aspirations. Therefore, a transparent selection mechanism is needed to determine development priorities that can be realized effectively and fairly.

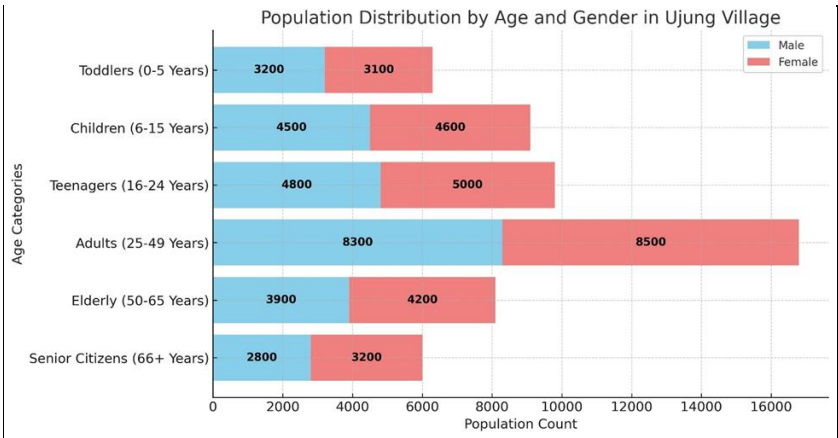


Figure 1. Population Distribution in Ujung Village  
 Source: Research Data Processed, 2025

Ujung Village has a population of 33,259 people, consisting of 16,689 males and 16,570 females, which shows an almost balanced distribution between the two sexes. The productive age group (25–49 years) dominated with 12,430 people, followed by children (6–15 years) as many as 6,031 people. This demographic composition reflects the great potential in involving productive age residents in village development and deliberation activities. In terms of livelihood, most of the population falls into the category of unemployed, students, and private employees. A total of 4,893 men and 6,718 women are not working, while the student group reaches 7,453 people. This data shows that the involvement of students and residents who have not yet worked in development needs to be encouraged, considering that they have more free time than the working group. The demographic distribution that spans various age groups, from toddlers to the elderly, demands an inclusive and equitable development approach. Each group has different needs, such as educational facilities for children, job opportunities for productive age, and access to health for the elderly. Therefore, understanding the demographic composition is an important basis in designing development programs that suit the needs of all levels of society.

The Village Development Planning Conference process in Ujung Village began with the collection of proposals from all RW chairmen. These proposals are then prioritized based on urgent needs and their impact on society. Once selected, priority proposals are included in the Development Planning Deliberation application as part of integration with urban development planning. This process reflects efforts to accommodate people's aspirations in a systematic and technology-based manner. Village Development Planning Conference in Ujung Village does not only focus on infrastructure development, but also includes community empowerment programs. For example, the procurement of goods for citizen activities, such as tents for community events and skills training, is a concrete example of a community-based development approach. This shows that Village Development Planning Conference is not just a physical development, but also aims to increase the social and economic capacity of residents. However, the implementation of Village Development Planning Conference faces several obstacles, such as budget and time

limitations. Not all community proposals can be realized in one budget period. To overcome this, clear priorities and transparency in decision-making are needed, so that people can understand the reasons behind every decision taken.

Community involvement in the Village Development Conference is quite active, where residents directly submit their proposals for their needs. Most of the participants provided input related to infrastructure, such as road and waterway repairs, which were considered urgent and had a direct impact on daily life. This active participation reflects the community's concern for development planning and a high sense of ownership of development programs in their environment. Residents are not only present as passive participants, but also play a role as decision-makers who help determine development priorities. This is clear evidence that Village Development Planning Conference is not just a consultation forum, but a forum for the community to actively participate in community-based development. However, not all participants have the same level of engagement. Some residents only attended without providing input, possibly due to lack of understanding or limited information. Therefore, efforts to increase community capacity, such as through training or socialization before the implementation of Village Development Planning Conference, are needed so that more residents can actively contribute to the development process.

The main motivation of residents to participate in the Village Development Conference is the hope of improving infrastructure that can improve their quality of life. For example, the repair of roads and waterways is considered a solution to the problem of mobility and waterlogging, which often interferes with daily activities. This motivation shows that the community has trust in Village Development Planning Conference as a means to voice their needs. In addition, Village Development Planning Conference provides opportunities for residents to be directly involved in decision-making, which in turn can increase the sense of ownership of development programs. When their proposals are considered and realized, the community feels appreciated, which ultimately strengthens the relationship between citizens and the government. However, the level of motivation of residents is uneven across all levels of society. Some residents may be reluctant to participate because they feel that their proposals will

not be accepted or have no direct impact on their lives. To increase motivation, the village government needs to strengthen transparency and show the tangible results of every decision taken in Village Development Planning Conference, so that the community increasingly believes that their participation really contributes to development.

The enthusiasm of the community in Village Development Planning Conference is quite high, several obstacles still hinder the full participation of residents. One of the main obstacles is the existence of residential buildings that jut into public areas, such as waterways or roads, which slows down the implementation of infrastructure projects. This problem shows the need for a persuasive approach to resolve conflicts between individual interests and public interests. Another obstacle is the limited budget allocation, which cannot accommodate all public proposals. In Village Development Planning Conference, only priority proposals can be included in the planning, which often causes disappointment for some citizens—especially those who feel their needs are urgent but not prioritized. In addition, the lack of representation of vulnerable groups, such as women, the elderly, and minorities, is also a challenge. The absence of this group can reduce inclusivity in the Village Development Planning Conference process. Therefore, a strategy is needed to encourage their involvement, for example by strengthening the role of LPMK and community leaders in inviting the group to actively participate.

The participation of the Village Development Conference of representatives of vulnerable groups, such as women, the elderly, and people with disabilities, is still very limited. Most of the participants who attended were RW chairmen and male community leaders, so the perspectives and needs of vulnerable groups were not fully represented. As a result, there is a risk that the results of the Village Development Planning Conference do not reflect the needs of all levels of society. This limited representation is largely due to a lack of awareness or opportunities for vulnerable groups to participate. For example, women are often constrained by domestic responsibilities, while the elderly and people with disabilities face mobility barriers. In addition, the lack of inclusive socialization is also a factor in their low participation. To increase the representation of vulnerable groups, strategic measures are needed,

such as providing transportation for the elderly and people with disabilities, holding Village Development Planning Conference at more flexible times to better enable women's participation, and engaging community leaders or communities close to vulnerable groups to encourage their involvement. These steps are important to ensure that development truly reflects the needs of the entire community, so that every citizen has the opportunity to contribute to the development planning of the village.

The implementation of the Village Development Conference in Ujung Village has resulted in various development projects that have a positive impact on the community. For example, improvements to paved roads and waterways have improved accessibility and reduced waterlogging in some areas. This impact is not only felt directly by the community, but also improves the image of the village government as a development facilitator. However, budget limitations make not all proposals can be realized, which has the potential to cause dissatisfaction among residents. Some projects that are not accommodated in the current year's budget planning should be postponed until the next Village Development Planning Conference cycle. This emphasizes the importance of transparency in conveying the reasons behind development priority decisions, so that the public understands the selection process carried out. In addition to the physical impact, Village Development Planning Conference also contributes to increasing the community's sense of ownership of development results. When residents feel involved in the decision-making process, they are more likely to maintain and utilize the infrastructure that has been built. Therefore, Village Development Planning Conference not only serves as a planning forum, but also as a tool to strengthen social relations and build trust between the community and the government.

Stakeholders, such as the Head of District Development, Village Head, Head of Health Center, Babinsa, and Chairman of LPMK, played a key role in the success of the Village Development Conference. They act as a liaison between the community and the government, ensuring that the needs of citizens are accommodated in development planning. Their presence in Village Development Planning Conference gives legitimacy to the process and helps resolve potential conflicts that arise. In

addition, the Chairman of RW and LPMK acts as a conveyor of residents' aspirations, collecting proposals from the RT level to be submitted in Village Development Planning Conference. This role is very important, because the RW Chairman has a deep understanding of the specific needs of the residents in their area. However, training is needed for stakeholders so that they are able to submit proposals effectively and objectively. Apart from being planners, stakeholders also have the responsibility to supervise the implementation of the agreed projects. With their active involvement, potential irregularities in project implementation can be minimized. Therefore, synergy between stakeholders and the community is urgently needed to ensure that development results are truly optimal and in accordance with the needs of residents.

Efforts to increase community participation in the Village Development Conference in Ujung Village require more intensive socialization regarding the goals and mechanisms of Village Development Planning Conference. Citizens need to understand the importance of their participation in this forum and how their contributions can influence

development outcomes. This socialization can be carried out through local media, citizen meetings, or the distribution of pamphlets, so that information can reach more people. In addition, a mechanism is needed to increase the representation of vulnerable groups. The village government can collaborate with LPMK and community leaders to invite specifically groups of women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The time and location of the Village Development Planning Conference implementation also need to be adjusted to be more inclusive, so that it can be accessed by all levels of society. Transparency in decision-making is also key in increasing public trust. Conveying the reasons behind the priority of the proposal and reporting on the results of the project implementation will help residents understand the limitations faced by the government, while ensuring that the Village Development Planning Conference process runs fairly and accountably. With these steps, community participation in Village Development Planning Conference can be increased, which will ultimately contribute to the quality and sustainability of development in Ujung Village.

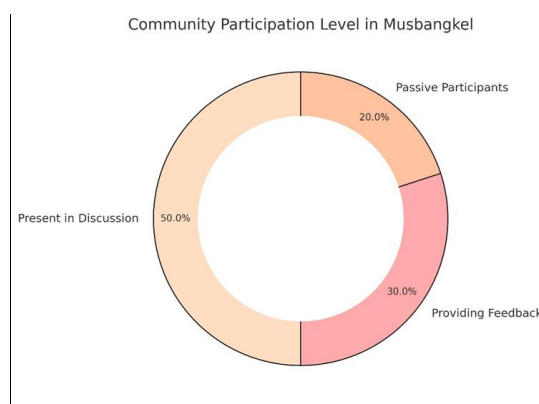


Figure 2. Community Participation Level in Musbangkel

Source: Research Data Processed, 2025

The line graph presented illustrates the level of community participation in the Village Planning and Development Conference in Ujung Village, Surabaya City. Community participation in the Village Development Planning Conference process was analyzed through three main categories: Present in Discussions, Providing Input, and Passive Participants. This data reflects the involvement of residents in various stages of Village Development Planning Conference, from discussion to decision-making. In the Present in Discussion category, the

people who were active in the discussion dominated with a participation rate of 50%. This figure shows the enthusiasm and awareness of most participants to contribute to village development planning. This high number can be interpreted as a form of success of the local government in inviting the community to be actively involved, as well as reflecting adequate access to participate in Village Development Planning Conference. The second category, namely Giving Input, has a participation rate of 30%. Participants in this category are not only present, but

also contribute directly by providing proposals or suggestions related to the issues discussed, such as infrastructure development or community empowerment. This percentage illustrates that even though many residents attended, some still chose not to be actively involved in conveying their ideas or aspirations. The last category, Passive Participants, showed participation of 20%. Participants in this category were present in the Village Development Planning Conference but did not make an active contribution. This can be due to several factors, such as lack of information, self-doubt, or other obstacles that prevent them from participating further.

This graph as a whole reflects the diversity of community participation levels in the Village Development Planning Conference process. The dominance of active presence in discussions shows great potential in empowering citizens, but the sizable number of passive participation indicates the need for additional strategies to increase active engagement. Factors such as better information dissemination, community empowerment, and training to increase confidence in expressing opinions can be solutions to encourage more inclusive and productive involvement in the upcoming Village Development Planning Conference.

Participatory Theory by Oakley (1991) states that community participation involves the active involvement of individuals or groups in the development process, from planning to evaluation (Fina and Naiheli 2023). Based on this theory, the ideal participation should empower the community as an equal partner in development. In the context of Ujung Village, the analysis was carried out based on three main indicators: media community participation, community participation in the process, and access to participation in decision-making.

### ***Community Participation Media***

Community participation media is a communication channel and mechanism used to involve the community in the development process (Sombang 2021). In the context of the Village Development Conference in Ujung Village, there are two main participation media, namely direct deliberation and the Development Planning Deliberation application. Direct deliberation provides a space for the community to gather,

discuss, and express opinions face-to-face (Astutik and Pujianto 2024). In this activity, as many as 30 participants attended, consisting of the chairman of RW, LPMK, community leaders, and the local government. Their presence shows that deliberations are still a fairly effective medium of participation in conveying people's aspirations. However, when compared to the total population of Ujung Village which reached 33,259 people, the level of representation in this deliberation is still relatively low. This shows that the existing participation media has not been fully inclusive and has not been able to reach all levels of society. As a solution, the Development Planning Deliberation application is an important innovation in providing access to technology-based participation. This application allows the public to submit development proposals without having to attend in person, so it can increase participation, especially for those with limited time or access. With a combination of direct deliberation and digital participation through the Development Planning Deliberation application, it is hoped that community involvement in development can be wider and inclusive.

Although participation media has been provided, its success largely depends on the extent to which the public gets information related to the Village Development Planning Conference process. The lack of even socialization can lead to low levels of community attendance and active involvement in deliberations. Therefore, the government needs to ensure that information about the implementation of Village Development Planning Conference is widely conveyed through various communication channels, such as social media to reach digitally active community groups, announcements in public places to ensure that information can be accessed by all residents, and the direct involvement of the head of RT/RW as the main intermediary in conveying information to residents at the neighborhood level. In addition, the provision of more inclusive participatory media, such as community-based discussion sessions or online surveys, can help reach more community groups—especially those with limited access to traditional media or in-person deliberations. By expanding access and improving the quality of participatory media, communities can be more empowered to voice their needs and actively contribute to the development process.

### ***Community Participation in the Process***

Community participation in the development process includes the activeness of individuals or groups in each stage of the Village Development Conference, starting from the submission of proposals to involvement in discussions (Rafinzar and Mardianto 2023). Based on data from the Ujung Village Village Development Planning Conference, the level of community involvement in this process is quite significant. The majority of the 30 participants who attended played an active role in providing input related to development needs. The proposals submitted, such as road repairs, the construction of waterways, and the procurement of residents' necessities, reflect public awareness of priority issues in their neighborhoods. This active participation shows that the community is not only symbolically present, but also engaged in constructive dialogue. This is in line with the principle of active participation according to Oakley (1991), where the community has a real role in conveying aspirations and determining development priorities. However, on the other hand, there are still passive participants, namely those who attend but do not make an active contribution to the discussion. This phenomenon indicates a gap in participation rates, which may be caused by several factors, such as lack of information, limited understanding, or lack of self-confidence.

Efforts to increase community involvement require a more inclusive and empowering approach. Some of the strategies that can be implemented include: Training or mentoring for residents on how to express their opinions effectively, to increase their confidence in discussions, Creating a more conducive atmosphere for discussion, where every opinion is valued and given space for discussion, and Increasing transparency in decision-making, so that people know that their input is really considered in development planning. With these measures, public trust in the government can increase, which will ultimately encourage more active and sustainable participation in development in Ujung Village.

### ***Access Participation in Decision-Making***

Access to participation in decision-making is a key element that determines the extent to which the community can influence the final results of the Village Development Planning Conference (Marina

and Hardjono, 2021). In the Village Development Deliberation of Ujung Village, the community had the opportunity to provide input on the priorities of the proposals submitted by the head of the RW. This process reflects the existence of an empowerment mechanism, where the community is given space to voice their needs and determine development priorities. This is in line with Oakley's theory, which emphasizes the importance of people's control over decisions that affect their lives. However, the effectiveness of access to participation still faces several obstacles. One of the main obstacles is budget constraints, which requires a strict selection of proposals that can be realized. As a result, not all public input can be accommodated, which has the potential to cause frustration or apathy among residents. In addition, the lack of representation of certain groups, such as women, young people, and other vulnerable groups, is also a barrier in creating a truly inclusive decision-making process.

In an effort to increase access to participation, higher transparency is needed in the proposal selection process. The government needs to publicly explain the reasons behind the decisions taken, including the priority criteria used. This can help people understand decision-making mechanisms and reduce potential dissatisfaction. Additionally, the provision of alternative participation mechanisms, such as online surveys or small group discussions, can help expand community involvement in decision-making. Involving more community groups in the planning and evaluation stages is also important to ensure that decisions are made that truly reflect the needs and aspirations of the entire community. Thus, community participation in decision-making is not only a formality, but also a real empowerment tool, which ensures that development runs in an inclusive and sustainable manner.

### ***Community-Based Development in the application of Village Development Planning Conference***

#### ***Community Participation***

Community participation is the active involvement of the community in the decision-making, implementation, and evaluation process of programs or policies that have an impact on their lives. Arnstein (1969), in the concept of the Ladder

of Citizen Participation, explained that community participation consists of various levels, ranging from tokenism (symbolic participation) to a level that truly empowers the community (Indriani, Asang, and Hans 2021). In order for participation to be effective, space is needed for the community to express their aspirations and play a role in the decision-making process.

In the context of public policy, community participation is one of the indicators of successful implementation (Yadisar 2024). Community involvement not only increases government accountability, but also ensures that policies are made in line with local needs. Community participation can be realized in various forms, such as consultation, deliberation, or direct involvement in the Development program (Aprilya and Tohawi 2024). With a high level of participation, the community will feel that they have the program or policy produced, so that its sustainability is more guaranteed. The implementation of the Village Level Development Conference in Ujung Village is a concrete example of how community participation is accommodated in the development planning process. In Village Development Planning Conference, the community is invited to provide input, determine development priorities, and monitor its implementation. This participation not only creates a sense of ownership of development programs, but also encourages transparency and accountability at the local level. Therefore, community participation is a key element in the successful implementation of Village Development Planning Conference.

### ***Community-Based Development***

Community-Based Development (CBD) is a development approach that puts the community at the center of the planning, implementation, and evaluation process of development projects. According to Mansuri and Rao (2013), CBD provides opportunities for communities to identify their own needs and take an active role in decision-making related to development programs (Burhanuddin 2024). This approach differs from conventional development models that tend to be top-down, where decisions are made by external authorities without significantly involving local communities. The basic principle of CBD is community empowerment, which aims to increase their capacity to face development challenges and create sustainable solutions (Sulistiyarningsih,

Fathullah, and Apriandhini 2023). The success of the CBD is often determined by the extent to which local community participation is accommodated in every stage of development, whether through local information gathering, collaboration in project design, to implementation and monitoring. A World Bank study (2004) showed that community-based projects are more effective in addressing poverty, inequality, and access to basic services than traditional approaches. However, this success is highly dependent on trust and strong relationships between the community and the facilitators. In addition, it is important to consider the diversity of needs and social dynamics in society so that this approach remains inclusive and does not neglect vulnerable groups.

This approach faces various challenges. One of the main challenges is the potential for internal conflicts in society. Local power dynamics can influence the decision-making process, where certain groups may dominate discussions or resources (Mawaddah, Hajar, and Wasid 2024). Although CBD aims to create inclusivity, its implementation is often hampered by inequalities in social structures, which can actually exacerbate existing disparities. In addition, the sustainability of community-based projects relies heavily on external resources, such as funding and technical support, which can reduce community autonomy in the long run. To optimize the success of community-based development, a flexible and adaptive approach is needed (Kosassy et al. 2025). Facilitators must have a deep understanding of the local context, including the prevailing culture, traditions, and social structures. In addition, the integration of community-based approaches with national development policies can increase efficiency and expand the impact of project success. This is in line with findings that emphasize the importance of synergy between local initiatives and systemic support to create a broader and sustainable impact (Zen, Mageiasti, and Yulhendri 2025). As such, CBD remains a relevant approach in realizing inclusive, efficient, and sustainable development in a variety of global contexts.

Community-based development in Ujung Village is realized through the Village Development Planning Conference. Community-Based Development (CBD) prioritizes citizen involvement in every stage of development, from proposal collection to implementation and evaluation. In this

approach, the community plays the role of the main subject of development, not just the beneficiaries. This approach allows the community to determine development needs that are in accordance with local conditions. For example, residents of Ujung Village proposed the construction of paving roads and waterways, which were considered urgent to improve accessibility and prevent waterlogging. This shows that the community understands the existing problems and is able to provide relevant solutions. Through CBD, people also learn to cooperate with the government in realizing their needs. This process strengthens citizens' sense of ownership of development outcomes, while encouraging transparency and accountability of the government, as development decisions are based on collective proposals. However, CBD implementation also faces challenges, such as budget constraints and technical constraints. Therefore, adequate support is needed from the government and other stakeholders to ensure the success of this approach in Ujung Village.

Village Development Planning Conference in Ujung Village is the main forum in the implementation of CBD, where this forum integrates community aspirations with government development policies. The Village Development Planning Conference will be held from July to December 2024, involving 30 participants, consisting of RW chairmen, community leaders, and other stakeholder representatives. The Village Development Planning Conference process began with the collection of proposals from the chairman of the RW, who represented the needs of the residents. The proposal is then prioritized based on the level of urgency and benefits for the community. For example, the construction of paving roads and the procurement of community tents are top priorities, because the impact is felt directly by many residents. Through Village Development Planning Conference, the community not only submits proposals but also participates in discussions to determine development priorities (Purwaningsih 2022). This creates a sense of shared responsibility in realizing sustainable development, in accordance with the basic principles of CBD. However, Village Development Planning Conference still faces limitations, such as a lack of representation of vulnerable groups and challenges in accommodating all proposals submitted. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the implementation mechanism to increase the

effectiveness of this forum and ensure that every level of society has an equal opportunity to determine the direction of development.

The collection of proposals is the initial stage in the Village Development Conference. At this stage, the chairman of the RW collects aspirations from his citizens to be conveyed in the Village Development Planning Conference forum. This process ensures that the needs raised are truly community-sourced and relevant to local conditions. The proposal of the residents of Ujung Village includes two main aspects: Physical development, such as paving roads and waterways, which aims to improve accessibility and prevent waterlogging, Community empowerment programs, such as skills training and the procurement of community tents, which focus on increasing the economic and social capacity of residents. This type of proposal shows that people prioritize urgent needs and have a direct impact on their quality of life. After the collection of proposals, the next stage is to determine priorities based on certain criteria, such as urgency, benefits to the community, and affordability of the budget. The priority proposals are then incorporated into the Development Planning Deliberation application, which serves to integrate local aspirations with urban development planning. This shows how technology is being used to support the Community-Based Development (CBD) approach. However, the collection of proposals still faces obstacles, such as the dominance of certain groups in discussions and the lack of participation from vulnerable groups. Therefore, a more inclusive approach is needed so that every voice in society can be heard and considered.

The principle of empowerment in Community-Based Development (CBD) is applied through community involvement in every stage of development. Village Development Planning Conference in Ujung Village not only functions as a forum to submit proposals, but also as a means to increase the capacity of residents to actively participate. One concrete form of community empowerment is skills training, such as entrepreneurship training, which is proposed in Village Development Planning Conference. The program aims to improve the capabilities of citizens, so that they can take advantage of the economic opportunities available in their neighborhoods. In addition, the procurement of goods such as

community tents shows attention to the social needs of the community. These tents are not only used for daily activities, but also to strengthen social relations between residents, reflecting a holistic approach to community-based development. However, the implementation of empowerment programs still needs further support, both in terms of funding and facilitation. Without adequate support, the resulting empowerment benefits may not be optimal. Therefore, the involvement of the government and other stakeholders is urgently needed to ensure that these programs can run effectively and sustainably.

Stakeholders have a crucial role in supporting the implementation of CBD through Village Development Planning Conference in Ujung Village. In the forum, various parties were present, such as the Head of District Development, Village Head, Head of the Health Center, Babinsa, Bhabinkamtibmas, Chairman of LPMK, Chairman of RW, Chairman of TP PKK, and representatives of the Youth Organization. Their presence ensures that the Village Development Planning Conference process runs according to procedures and involves various elements of society optimally. Stakeholder involvement also serves as a bridge between people's aspirations and government policies. For example, the Chairman of the RW proposes the needs of the residents, while the Village Head and the Head of the Sub-district Development ensure that the proposal can be aligned with the budget and development priorities at the city level. This collaboration reflects the principle of synergy in the CBD, where each party contributes according to their respective roles. In addition, stakeholders also play a role in ensuring inclusivity during the Village Development Planning Conference process. They can encourage the participation of vulnerable groups, such as women, the elderly, and minorities, ensuring that all levels of society, including those who are often overlooked, participate in development planning. However, some challenges remain, such as limited time and resources owned by stakeholders. Therefore, to increase the effectiveness of their engagement, special training on participatory facilitation as well as strategies in dealing with potential conflicts that may arise during the Village Development Planning Conference process is needed.

Village Development Planning Conference in Ujung Village integrates two main aspects in the

CBD: infrastructure development and community empowerment. Infrastructure is the main focus because of its direct impact on the welfare of citizens. Projects such as the construction of paving roads and waterways are a priority, as they not only improve accessibility, but also reduce the risk of flooding in the region. In addition to physical development, community empowerment is also an important part of Village Development Planning Conference. Examples are the procurement of community tents and skills training. These programs are designed to improve the quality of life of citizens and strengthen their capacity to face social and economic challenges. This approach reflects the CBD philosophy that is oriented towards the needs of the local community. By combining physical development and social empowerment, Village Development Planning Conference not only produces useful infrastructure, but also strengthens the social capital of the community. This approach provides a more holistic and sustainable impact. However, the success of this integration requires adequate budget support and active participation from the community. Without these two elements, empowerment programs risk losing focus or becoming unsustainable.

Although CBD provides many benefits, its implementation in Ujung Village faces a number of obstacles. One of the main obstacles is budget limitations, which causes not all community proposals to be realized. Only proposals that are considered priority can be included in budget planning, which often causes disappointment among residents. In addition, there is a lack of representation of vulnerable groups, such as women, the elderly, and minorities, in Village Development Planning Conference. The dominance of certain groups in these forums can reduce inclusivity and hinder the fair decision-making process. This shows the need for more effective strategies to increase the involvement of these groups. Technical problems are also a challenge, such as the existence of residential buildings that jut into waterways or roads, which can hinder the implementation of infrastructure projects. These obstacles require a persuasive approach to resolve conflicts between individual interests and public interests. To overcome these obstacles, more careful planning, transparency in decision-making, and community capacity strengthening are needed. With this approach, the application of CBD can be

more effective and inclusive, so that the benefits can be felt by all levels of society.

The implementation of CBD through Village Development Planning Conference in Ujung Village has had a significant positive impact. One of the main impacts is the increase in community participation in development planning. By being directly involved, residents feel that they have a role in determining the direction of development in their area. The projects resulting from Village Development Planning Conference, such as the construction of paving roads and waterways, have improved the quality of life of the community. Residents feel immediate benefits, such as better accessibility and reduced waterlogging in some areas. This impact shows that CBD is able to produce solutions that suit local needs. In addition, empowerment programs, such as skills training, have increased the social and economic capacity of the community. This program not only provides short-term benefits, but also strengthens community resilience in facing future challenges. However, to strengthen this positive impact, periodic evaluations and transparency are needed in the implementation of the project. By involving the community in the evaluation process, the government can receive useful feedback for future improvements (Hendraswari et al. 2023).

The success of CBD in Village Development Planning Conference requires continuous evaluation to ensure optimal results. This evaluation can include an assessment of the level of community participation, the relevance of the resulting project, and its impact on the quality of life of residents. Through evaluation, the government can identify strengths and weaknesses in the implementation of CBD, so that improvements can be made appropriately. In addition, program sustainability is a crucial aspect in the CBD. Projects such as skills training require long-term support so that the benefits are not only temporary, but also have a sustainable impact. One way to ensure this is to involve local

institutions, such as LPMK or Karang Taruna, in the management of the program. The government also needs to increase transparency in the implementation of projects to maintain public trust. Reports on budget allocations and development results should be submitted openly to residents. This transparency will strengthen the community's sense of ownership of development results, as well as encourage their active participation in the future planning process. With these measures, CBD in Ujung Village can continue to provide long-term benefits and become a model for other regions that want to adopt a similar approach.

Efforts to increase the effectiveness of CBD in Village Development Planning Conference in Ujung Village, several steps can be taken. First, increasing community capacity through participatory training that emphasizes the importance of the active role of residents in the development process. This training can help the community understand how to convey relevant proposals and contribute effectively to discussions and decision-making. Second, strengthening the representation of vulnerable groups in Village Development Planning Conference. Governments can work with community leaders to ensure that women, the elderly, and minorities have equal opportunities to participate. This effort is important to create a more inclusive and equitable development process. Third, increasing transparency in decision-making. The government needs to convey the reasons behind the priorities of the chosen proposals, so that the public understands the existing limitations and can accept the decision better. This transparency will also increase public trust in the government. By implementing these measures, CBD in Ujung Village can become more effective in creating inclusive, relevant, and sustainable development. This not only provides greater benefits to the community, but also strengthens the relationship between citizens and the government.

Table 1. Results of Community Questionnaire on Village Development Planning Conference

Question	Answer
How active are you in village development planning conference discussions?	Residents' participation was declared active, especially in providing input related to road construction and the procurement of needed goods.
Are your proposals accepted in village development planning conference?	Several proposals were accepted, but not all of them could be realized due to adjustments to the village budget ceiling.
What are the obstacles you experienced during the village development planning conference?	The main obstacle experienced is the residents' buildings that protrude out, hindering the development process.
Is the infrastructure development carried out according to the needs of the residents?	Yes, construction such as paving roads and canals are assessed as needed and are very helpful in reducing inundation and improving accessibility for residents.
How much positive impact does development have on your daily activities?	The construction of roads and canals has facilitated residents' activities, especially in reducing flooding which was previously an obstacle.
Are there any training or community empowerment activities that are useful to you?	Yes, trainings and procurement of goods such as tents are considered useful to support residents' activities.
How satisfied are you with the management and results of the village development planning conference?	In general, residents feel quite satisfied because basic infrastructure needs are starting to be met, although there are limitations in accepting all proposals.

Source: Research Data Processed, 2025

Based on the results of the questionnaire, the participation of residents in Village Development Planning Conference in Ujung Village is classified as very active. Residents are directly involved in discussions and provide input related to development needs, such as the repair of paving roads and waterways, which are considered important to facilitate their daily activities. This active participation shows that the community understands the importance of their involvement in determining development priorities. Although many proposals were accepted, some could not be realized due to budget constraints. Another obstacle found was the existence of residents' buildings that jutted out, thus hindering the development process. However, residents are still satisfied because they were given a clear explanation of the reasons for not accepting some of the proposals. This shows that there is good communication between the village government and the community. In addition to infrastructure

development, community empowerment is also an important part of Village Development Planning Conference. The results of the questionnaire showed that skill training and the procurement of facilities, such as tents, were felt by the residents. Training provides skills for the community, while public facilities support various social activities that strengthen relations between residents.

The real impact of Village Development Planning Conference can be felt in the daily lives of residents. Improvements to roads and waterways, for example, have reduced waterlogging and facilitated residents' activities. This proves that community-based development not only produces direct benefits, but also improves their quality of life. Overall, the results of the questionnaire showed that residents were quite satisfied with the results of the Village Development Planning Conference, although there were some limitations in its realization. The process that involves residents directly through discussion

and empowerment makes Village Development Planning Conference an example of effective community-based development. By strengthening participation and communication, Village Development Planning Conference can continue to develop and become the main means of realizing sustainable development.

## CONCLUSION

The implementation of Village Development Planning Conference in Ujung Village shows that community participation plays an important role in local-based development planning. Based on Oakley's theory (1991), ideal community participation involves active involvement in the planning, implementation, and evaluation stages. Of the three main indicators—media participation, participation in the process, and access to decision-making—it was found that while the forum has provided space for the public to voice their needs, participation is still limited to certain groups. The data shows that the active attendance rate reaches 50%, but the active contribution in providing input is only 30%, and some participants remain passive (20%). Obstacles such as budget limitations, lack of representation of vulnerable groups, and lack of socialization are challenges that need to be overcome. Nevertheless, the results of the Village Development Planning Conference have had a positive impact such as increasing transparency, a sense of belonging, and the realization of infrastructure development projects that are relevant to the needs of the community. To increase the effectiveness of participation, a more inclusive, transparent, and sustainable approach is needed. In conclusion, Village Development Planning Conference in Ujung Village has great potential to become a community empowerment forum if the main challenges can be overcome strategically.

Efforts to increase community participation in Village Development Planning Conference can be done by taking several steps. First, wider and inclusive socialization must be carried out, such as using social media, announcements in public places, and the involvement of community leaders to increase citizens' awareness of the importance of this forum. It can also include participatory training that teaches how to communicate aspirations effectively. Second, the government needs to strengthen the

representation of vulnerable groups, such as women, the elderly, and groups with disabilities, by giving special invitations or providing better accessibility facilities. Third, transparency in decision-making must be increased by openly conveying priority criteria and providing reports on the results of the Village Development Planning Conference to the public. Fourth, introduce alternative participation mechanisms, such as online surveys or small group discussions, to reach more citizens. Fifth, the government can allocate the budget more flexibly to ensure that priority proposals can be accommodated properly. With the implementation of these measures, Village Development Planning Conference can become more inclusive, efficient, and relevant, as well as strengthen the relationship between the community and the government. This step not only encourages active participation but also creates a more sustainable development that is in line with local needs.

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