

## Local Economic Development Based on Regional Potential as a Means of Increasing Community Participation in Tanjung Laut Indah

**Siti Rabiah<sup>1)</sup> Aji Ratna Kusuma<sup>2)</sup> Santi Rande<sup>3)</sup> Margaret Oyekan<sup>4)</sup>**

<sup>1, 2, 3)</sup> *Master of Public Administration Study Program, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences  
Universitas Mulawarman, Indonesia*

<sup>4)</sup> *Department of Business Administration, Veritas University Abuja, Nigeria  
Corresponding Author: Siti Rabiah, Email: [sitirabiahmap@gmail.com](mailto:sitirabiahmap@gmail.com)*

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**Abstract.** Limited and uneven community participation remains a critical barrier to local economic development, particularly in resource-rich peripheral regions where externally driven interventions frequently fail to generate inclusive and sustainable outcomes. This study therefore aims to analyze the patterns, determinants, and implications of community participation in local economic development in Tanjung Laut Indah Village, Bontang City, East Kalimantan, with a particular focus on how regional potential can be strategically leveraged to strengthen participatory processes and outcomes. A qualitative research design was employed, combining in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and document analysis; the data were interpreted using the Sustainable Livelihood Framework to examine the interactions among natural, human, social, physical, and financial capital. The findings indicate heterogeneous participation typologies: approximately 45% of residents engage in active participation, 30% participate passively, 15% are not involved, and 10% display counterproductive or resistant behaviors. Active participation is concentrated among fishermen, housewives operating micro-enterprises, and youth engaged in technology-based initiatives, demonstrating the potential of locally driven actions to create economic value, strengthen social cohesion, and support sustainable livelihood strategies. In contrast, passive, non-involvement, and resistance are shaped by top-down program designs, limited skills, resource constraints, institutional barriers, and conflicting interests that vary across demographic groups and over time. The study concludes that effective local economic development requires multidimensional, context-sensitive strategies that integrate capacity building, inclusive decision-making, and equitable resource distribution. The novelty of this research lies in its empirical classification of participation typologies explicitly linked to livelihood assets, providing a more granular understanding of participation dynamics. These results contribute conceptually and practically by informing policymakers and development practitioners in designing resilient, equitable, and participatory local economic initiatives that promote sustainable growth and community empowerment.

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**Keywords:** *Local Economic Development; Community Participation; Sustainable Livelihoods; Community Empowerment; Resource-Rich Regions*

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### INTRODUCTION

Local economic development has emerged as one of the most widely promoted approaches in contemporary development discourse, particularly within the framework of grassroots community empowerment. Unlike macro-oriented development strategies, local economic development emphasizes the optimization of a region's inherent potential by actively involving the community as the primary actor (Sapulette & Ritiauw, 2025). This approach aligns with the participatory paradigm, which views development not merely as a technocratic process controlled

by the government but as the outcome of interaction and collaboration among local actors, including the community, local government, the private sector, and community-based institutions (Banda, 2025; Chouinard, 2013). In this context, community participation becomes an essential prerequisite to ensure that development is inclusive, sustainable, and aligned with the real needs of the people (Hariram et al., 2023; Mathur et al., 2008; Schulenkorf, 2012; Sebunya & Gichuki, 2024).

Tanjung Laut Indah, one of the areas in Bontang City, East Kalimantan, possesses considerable economic potential, particularly in the trade and service sectors. Its strategic geographic position, proximity to urban economic activities, and the presence of a socially diverse community provide the region with opportunities to develop a competitive local economy. However, this potential has not yet been fully optimized. One of the main contributing factors is the low level of community participation in various government-initiated economic development programs (Enserink & Koppenjan, 2007). Many of these programs still tend to be top-down, bureaucratically driven, and lacking meaningful community involvement from the planning stage to evaluation (Fraser et al., 2006; Koontz & Newig, 2014; Mansuri & Rao, 2013). As a result, policies are often misaligned with the real needs of the people and fail to foster a sense of ownership over development initiatives (Massa & Testa, 2008; Mosse, 2004; Verawati & Nisrina, 2025).

Community participation in local economic development should not be understood merely as attendance at deliberation forums, but as active involvement in generating ideas, making decisions, implementing programs, as well as monitoring and evaluation. Such meaningful participation serves as the key indicator of the success of locally based development (Reed et al., 2008). When the community feels substantially involved, they develop a strong sense of ownership over programs, thereby ensuring the sustainability of development (Shediac-Rizkallah & Bone, 1998). Conversely, when the community is treated merely as an object of development, participation becomes formalistic and tends to decline over time. This phenomenon has been observed in many regions of Indonesia, where the lack of quality participation has become a major obstacle to sustainable local economic development (Kania et al., 2021; Surya et al., 2020).

In the case of Tanjung Laut Indah, various studies and field observations indicate that community participation remains uneven. While some residents fully support local economic development, particularly those who directly benefit from government programs such as small and medium-sized enterprises, many others remain passive, and some groups are entirely uninvolved or even reject development programs because they perceive no tangible benefit. This heterogeneity in participation reflects underlying social disparities that affect the effectiveness of

development (Scheufele et al., 2006; Stiglitz, 2002). The presence of passive and apathetic groups demonstrates the weakness of collective awareness, while resistance from certain segments of the community highlights issues of justice and inclusivity in the development process.

Local economic development based on regional potential in Tanjung Laut Indah holds considerable promise as a driver of community participation (Hamzah et al., 2024). The region's local potential—whether in trade, services, or sociocultural resources—can serve as the foundation for the design of economic programs that engage all community elements. Harnessing local potential not only stimulates economic activity but also strengthens social cohesion, as residents feel that their assets and capabilities are valued and developed (Kalfas et al., 2024; Steiner & Teasdale, 2019; Wei et al., 2024). Moreover, a potential-based approach enables the creation of development programs that are more relevant to the community's real conditions, thereby enhancing participation and public support (Cattino & Reckien, 2021).

Nevertheless, in order for potential-based development to truly enhance community participation, systematic strategies are required (Cattino & Reckien, 2021; Pozoukidou & Angelidou, 2022; Sulaiman et al., 2022). First, the government must improve its communication mechanisms with the public. Information on development programs should be delivered transparently, made easily accessible, and communicated in language that the community can readily understand. Second, the community should be granted greater space to engage in decision-making. Development forums should function as platforms for genuine deliberation rather than mere formalities to legitimize pre-determined policies. Third, the government must ensure that development programs generate tangible benefits that can be directly felt by residents. When communities experience real advantages, they are more motivated to participate actively.

Conceptually, local economic development based on regional potential is also aligned with the principles of sustainable development and the global agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 8, for instance, emphasizes inclusive and sustainable economic growth and the provision of decent work for all (van Niekerk, 2020). Meanwhile, SDG 11 underscores the importance of building inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements (Allan et al., 2024; Rasli et al., 2025). Both goals can be realized through local economic development that leverages regional potential while simultaneously enhancing community participation as a central element of development (Chen et al., 2025; Deller et al., 2017). Thus, the study of local economic development in Tanjung Laut Indah is not only relevant at the local level but also carries global significance as part of broader efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Previous studies have highlighted the critical importance of community participation in potential-based development. For example, research by (Aznem et al., 2024) on tourism development rooted in local wisdom revealed that the success of such programs depends largely on the extent of community involvement in planning and implementation. Similarly, (Citrani & Syaputra, 2024) study on tourism development in Bukit Lawang showed that limited community involvement rendered programs ineffective. (KAMAL et al., 2023) further emphasized the need for collaboration between government and communities in the development of fishing villages to ensure sustainability. These studies collectively reinforce the notion that community participation is the cornerstone of local economic development and that programs lacking meaningful participation are highly vulnerable to failure.

Within this framework, the present study seeks to provide an in-depth analysis of how local economic development based on regional potential can serve as a means to enhance community participation in Tanjung Laut Indah. The analysis focuses on mapping the forms of participation that emerge, identifying the factors that encourage or hinder participation, and examining how local potential can serve as the foundation for designing inclusive and sustainable development programs (George et al., 2015; Pillan et al., 2023). By employing an analytical approach that emphasizes the interconnections between regional potential, government policies, and community dynamics, this study aims to contribute both theoretically and practically to the strengthening of local economic development in Tanjung Laut Indah.

Theoretically, this study adds to the body of knowledge on the relationship between potential-based local development and community participation. Whereas much of the existing literature tends to focus on participation in infrastructure development or top-down policy contexts, this research underscores the importance of local potential as an entry point for enhancing citizen involvement. Practically, the study offers insights for local governments and other stakeholders in designing more participatory development strategies. By involving the community actively from the outset, local economic development will not only generate economic growth but also reinforce local democracy, build trust between citizens and government, and strengthen social cohesion at the village level.

For these reasons, investigating local economic development based on regional potential as a means of increasing community participation in Tanjung Laut Indah is both timely and significant. This study is expected to provide a comprehensive account of the dynamics of participation, the obstacles and enabling factors, as well as the untapped potential that can be leveraged. With these findings, more effective intervention strategies can be developed to ensure

that local economic development results not only in growth but also in inclusivity, sustainability, and social equity for all residents of Tanjung Laut Indah.

## RESEARCH METHODS

### Research Design and Approach

This study employed a qualitative research design with a descriptive-analytic orientation, aiming to obtain an in-depth understanding of the dynamics of local economic development in Tanjung Laut Indah Village through the lens of the Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF) (Natarajan et al., 2022). A qualitative approach was selected because it enables the exploration of social realities in their natural context, captures the subjective experiences and meanings constructed by community members, and reveals the complex interrelations between the utilization of local resources, strategies of economic diversification, and the sustainability of livelihoods. This design is appropriate for addressing the research problems, which are centered on explaining patterns, determinants, and implications of community participation within a specific socio-spatial setting.

### Research Site and Subjects

The research was conducted in Tanjung Laut Indah Village, Bontang City, East Kalimantan, a locality characterized by significant potential in trade, services, and coastal-based economic activities. The research subjects comprised community members involved in various livelihood activities—such as fisheries, micro- and small-scale enterprises, services, and technology-based initiatives—as well as key actors from local government and community-based organizations relevant to local economic development. Participants were selected using purposive sampling, based on their direct involvement in or knowledge of local economic programs and community participation processes. This sampling strategy was designed to ensure that diverse perspectives across socio-economic, occupational, and demographic groups were adequately represented.

### Research Implementation Procedures

The research was implemented in several stages. The preparatory stage involved preliminary mapping of local economic activities, identification of key stakeholders, and refinement of research questions and instruments. This was followed by the data collection stage, during which the researcher conducted field visits, built rapport with community members, and carried out interviews, observations, and document reviews. The final stage consisted of data consolidation, thematic analysis, and interpretation of findings in relation to the SLF and the

broader literature on local economic development and community participation. Throughout these stages, iterative reflection was employed to refine emerging categories and ensure that the analysis remained grounded in the empirical realities of Tanjung Laut Indah Village.

### Materials and Instruments

The primary research instruments consisted of semi-structured interview guides, observation protocols, and document review checklists. The interview guides were designed to elicit detailed information on livelihood strategies, experiences with development programs, perceptions of participation, and views on local economic potential and constraints. Observation protocols were used to systematically record community activities, interactions during public meetings or economic initiatives, and the use of physical infrastructure supporting local livelihoods. Document review checklists facilitated the structured examination of policy documents, program reports, village development plans, and statistical records relevant to local economic development and community participation. These instruments were developed in alignment with the SLF dimensions and were refined during the preliminary fieldwork to ensure clarity and contextual relevance.

### Data Collection Techniques

Data were collected through three main techniques: in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and document review. In-depth interviews were conducted with community members, local leaders, government officials, and representatives of community-based institutions to obtain rich narratives about participation practices, enabling and constraining factors, and perceived outcomes of local economic initiatives. Participatory observation allowed the researcher to directly observe everyday livelihood activities, community meetings, and program implementation processes, thereby capturing non-verbal cues, interaction patterns, and informal practices that might not emerge in interviews. Document review was carried out to obtain secondary information on local economic profiles, program designs, implementation reports, and regulatory frameworks, which were then used to contextualize and triangulate the primary data.

### Data Analysis Techniques

The collected data were analyzed using thematic analysis within the framework of the Sustainable Livelihood Framework (Natarajan et al., 2022). Interview transcripts, observation notes, and documents were first organized and coded using a combination of deductive categories derived from the SLF (natural, human, social, physical, and financial capital) and inductive codes emerging from the field. The coding process aimed to identify patterns related to forms and

typologies of participation, livelihood strategies, access to and control over resources, and the perceived effectiveness of local economic development programs. These codes were then grouped into broader themes that captured the relationships among livelihood assets, participation dynamics, and development outcomes. Cross-case comparisons among different livelihood and demographic groups were conducted to highlight variations in participation and to understand how structural and contextual factors shape these differences.

### **Data Validity and Trustworthiness**

To ensure the validity and trustworthiness of the findings, several strategies were employed. Data triangulation was conducted by comparing information obtained from interviews, observations, and documents to verify consistency and minimize bias. Methodological triangulation was also applied by combining different qualitative techniques to capture the complexity of the research phenomena. Member checking was carried out by discussing preliminary interpretations with selected participants to confirm the accuracy of the researcher's understanding and to refine thematic categories where necessary. In addition, peer debriefing with academic colleagues was used to critically assess the analytical process and strengthen the credibility of the interpretations. An audit trail documenting key methodological decisions, coding schemes, and analytical memos was maintained to enhance the transparency and dependability of the research process.

### **Analytical Framework: Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF)**

The analytical framework of this study is grounded in the Sustainable Livelihood Framework, which encompasses five forms of capital that shape community livelihoods: natural capital (such as fisheries resources, seaweed, mangroves, and coastal ecosystems), human capital (knowledge, skills, and health capacities), social capital (networks, local institutions, and community participation), physical capital (infrastructure, production facilities, and supporting amenities), and financial capital (access to credit, savings, and household income) (Natarajan et al., 2022). By integrating these five forms of capital, the study seeks to explain how livelihood strategies are formed, how communities utilize opportunities and cope with vulnerabilities, and how government policies and programs can support the sustainability of local economies based on village potentials. This framework is particularly suited to the research problem, as it allows for a systematic examination of the linkages between livelihood assets, participation patterns, and the trajectories of local economic development in Tanjung Laut Indah.

## RESULT

### Community Participation in Local Economic Development

Community participation in local economic development is one of the crucial variables determining the success and sustainability of development programs based on regional potential. In Tanjung Laut Indah Village, the level of community participation in supporting local economic development exhibits diverse patterns, ranging from groups that actively contribute, to those who participate passively, and even to apathetic or counterproductive groups with respect to ongoing programs. Simulation results indicate that approximately 45% of the community can be classified as actively engaged, 30% as passive participants, 15% as not involved at all, and 10% as obstructing the implementation of development initiatives. This variation demonstrates that the community cannot be regarded as a homogeneous entity, but rather as a social group characterized by differences in motivation, capacity, and perspectives toward development (Titz et al., 2018).

The high level of participation among the 45% of actively engaged community members offers a positive outlook for local economic development. This group typically consists of fishermen who are accustomed to organizing within cooperative ventures, housewives involved in productive activities such as waste banks or micro-enterprises based on seaweed, and youth with access to information and basic technological skills. They not only participate in government-initiated development programs but also take the initiative to develop businesses or activities that add value to the local economy. For instance, some community members have begun processing fish catches into products such as fish crackers or shredded fish (*Abon*) for sale in local markets (Rasyid, 2025; Saputra & Sidabutar, 2025). Such active participation aligns with the principles of community-based development, which emphasize the importance of involving the community from the planning stage through to program implementation, fostering a sense of ownership and ensuring program sustainability.

Meanwhile, the segment of the community exhibiting passive behavior, which accounts for approximately 30%, reflects limitations in both capacity and motivation. These individuals tend to participate only when prompted or incentivized by external parties, such as receiving equipment support from the government or attending free training programs. This phenomenon indicates that the level of community participation remains vulnerable to external factors and has not fully developed from internal awareness (Junaidi et al., 2025). Such conditions are often observed among community members who perceive development as something imposed from outside rather than as part of a collective responsibility. From the perspective of Arnstein's ladder of participation, this group occupies the "tokenism" level, where their involvement is insufficient

to influence decision-making and merely fulfills formal requirements (Bell & Reed, 2021; Sharma, 2025).

On the other hand, approximately 15% of the community who do not participate at all exhibit an apathetic attitude toward development. They generally perceive development programs as providing no direct benefits or as favoring only certain groups. This attitude may stem from past experiences in which government programs failed to address the community's actual needs or from low levels of trust in formal institutions. Such apathy presents a serious challenge, as it not only reduces the number of participatory actors in development but also creates social distance between those involved and those disengaged. If left unaddressed, this attitude may evolve into social resistance, thereby hindering the success of development programs (Buick et al., 2018).

Furthermore, approximately 10% of the community exhibit counterproductive behavior, actively opposing or even obstructing the implementation of development programs (Afandi et al., 2023; Zheng et al., 2017). This group is often driven by short-term interests, such as exploiting land for economic activities that may harm the environment, including mangrove logging for firewood or the use of destructive fishing gear that damages marine ecosystems. Their resistance may also be linked to conflicts of interest in resource management, such as disagreements over benefit-sharing or program locations (Soliev & Theesfeld, 2017). This counterproductive group serves as a critical indicator that local economic development is not solely a matter of technical or resource-related concerns but is closely intertwined with social dynamics, competing interests, and local institutional frameworks.

The phenomenon of heterogeneous community participation in Tanjung Laut Indah reflects the complexities inherent in participatory development, which posits that the success and sustainability of development initiatives are deeply contingent upon active engagement from local residents. Participation extends beyond mere physical presence in programs or the passive reception of benefits; it requires individuals to contribute meaningfully, express their needs and aspirations, and actively engage in the processes of decision-making and planning (Ramey et al., 2017). This multi-dimensional understanding highlights that community involvement is a dynamic interplay between motivation, capacity, and opportunity, rather than a static or uniform condition across the population. As such, development programs must account for varying levels of engagement and recognize the social, economic, and institutional factors that influence whether individuals can and will participate effectively (Lestari & Nurdiansyah B, 2024).

Consequently, the central challenge for local development lies not merely in increasing attendance or superficial involvement but in enhancing the quality of participation so that the community assumes a central role as the true actor of development. Strategies to achieve this

require creating opportunities for empowerment, facilitating access to relevant knowledge and skills, and establishing mechanisms that allow the community to influence decisions meaningfully. Moreover, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among residents is essential for sustaining initiatives over the long term (Dushkova & Ivlieva, 2024; Nurdiansyah B & Harakan, 2025). By prioritizing quality participation, development programs can ensure that local resources are managed effectively, social cohesion is strengthened, and the benefits of economic development are distributed more equitably across the community.

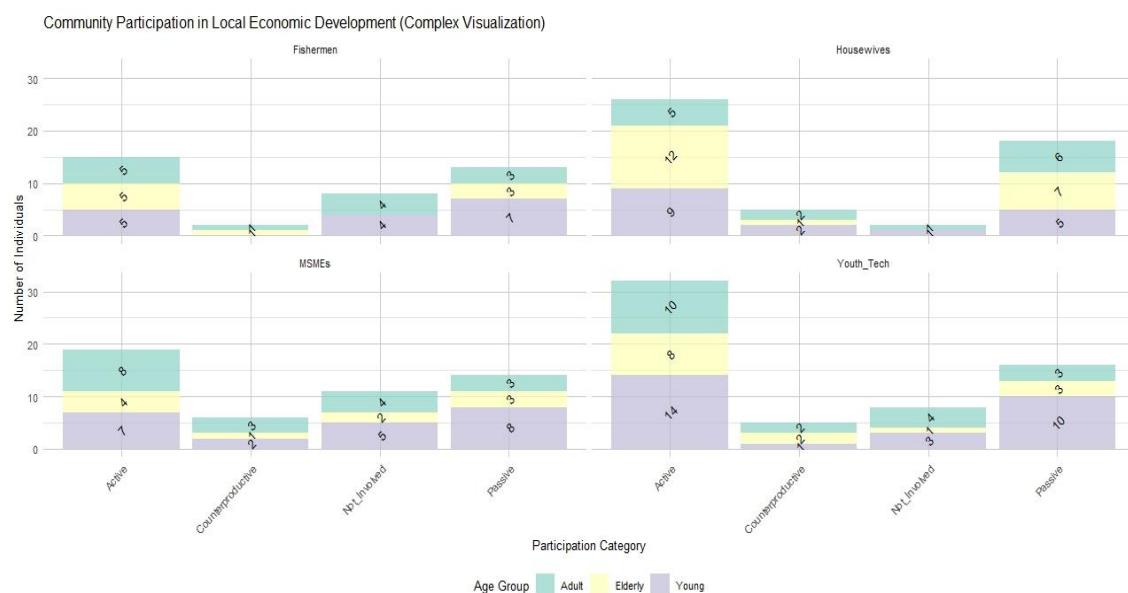


Figure 1. Categories of Community Participation in Local Economic Development.

Source: processed by the researcher (2025)

Figure 1 is the complex visualization generated from the simulated dataset provides a multidimensional perspective on community participation in local economic development. In this visualization, participation categories—Active, Passive, Not Involved, and Counterproductive—are plotted along the X-axis, capturing the spectrum of engagement levels within the population. Each bar is stacked according to age group (Young, Adult, Elderly), with distinct colors representing each age cohort. The use of transparency in the fill aesthetic allows overlapping categories to remain distinguishable, reflecting the intricate layering of demographic characteristics within each participation category.

Additionally, the visualization is faceted by type of economic activity, including Fishermen, MSMEs, Housewives, and Youth in Technology. This approach produces multiple panels, enabling simultaneous examination of how participation varies across economic sectors. For instance, the Fishermen panel indicates that adults dominate the active participation category, while the young population exhibits a more heterogeneous pattern between active and passive

involvement. Conversely, in the MSMEs panel, young individuals show a higher prevalence in active participation, suggesting that youth engagement may be driven by entrepreneurial or technology-based initiatives (Chang, 2019).

The inclusion of count labels atop each stacked bar further enhances the interpretability of individual panel distributions, although the overall complexity and number of facets introduce visual density, making immediate interpretation more challenging. This density, however, mirrors the real-world complexity of community participation, where engagement is neither uniform nor linear but shaped by a combination of demographic factors, economic roles, and social motivations (Van Leuven & Malone, 2025).

From an analytical standpoint, this layered and faceted visualization allows for multidimensional insights that extend beyond simple frequency counts. It facilitates the identification of patterns and potential areas for targeted intervention—for example, identifying passive or non-involved groups within specific panels to inform capacity-building initiatives. Moreover, it highlights potential sources of social resistance or conflict, particularly within the counterproductive category, where actions may negatively impact environmental sustainability or resource management.

Overall, while the visualization is visually complex and relatively challenging to interpret at first glance, it effectively conveys the heterogeneity of community participation and its interactions with demographic and economic variables. Such multidimensional visualizations underscore the critical role of incorporating diverse demographic, economic, and social factors when evaluating local development programs. By presenting complex data in an integrated manner, these visualizations enable researchers and policymakers to identify patterns, disparities, and potential areas of intervention that might otherwise remain obscured. This comprehensive perspective facilitates a deeper understanding of community dynamics, allowing for more accurate assessments of program effectiveness and the identification of priority sectors that require targeted support. In turn, this enhances the capacity of local authorities and development practitioners to design initiatives that are responsive to the specific needs and characteristics of different population groups.

Moreover, the use of such integrated data visualization promotes more effective community engagement and participatory approaches in development research. By making information accessible and interpretable for diverse stakeholders, including local residents, policymakers, and development agencies, these visualizations foster transparency and collaborative decision-making. They also serve as a practical tool for evidence-based policymaking, enabling decisions to be guided by a holistic understanding of local conditions rather than isolated metrics.

Ultimately, this approach strengthens the alignment between development programs and community priorities, encouraging inclusive participation and supporting sustainable outcomes that reflect the multidimensional realities of local development contexts (Marín-González et al., 2022; Van der Waldt, 2024).

### Forms of Active Community Participation

Active participation represents a critical dimension of community engagement in local economic development, reflecting the extent to which residents move beyond passive involvement to take initiative in shaping and sustaining development programs. This sub-section examines the various forms through which community members actively contribute, including cooperative organization, micro-enterprise activities, community and environmental initiatives, and the utilization of technology. Understanding these forms is essential, as they not only demonstrate the community's capacity for self-organization and innovation but also provide insight into the factors that enable sustained participation and the creation of local economic value. By analyzing these patterns, researchers and policymakers can better design interventions that foster meaningful engagement and strengthen the community's role as a primary actor in development.

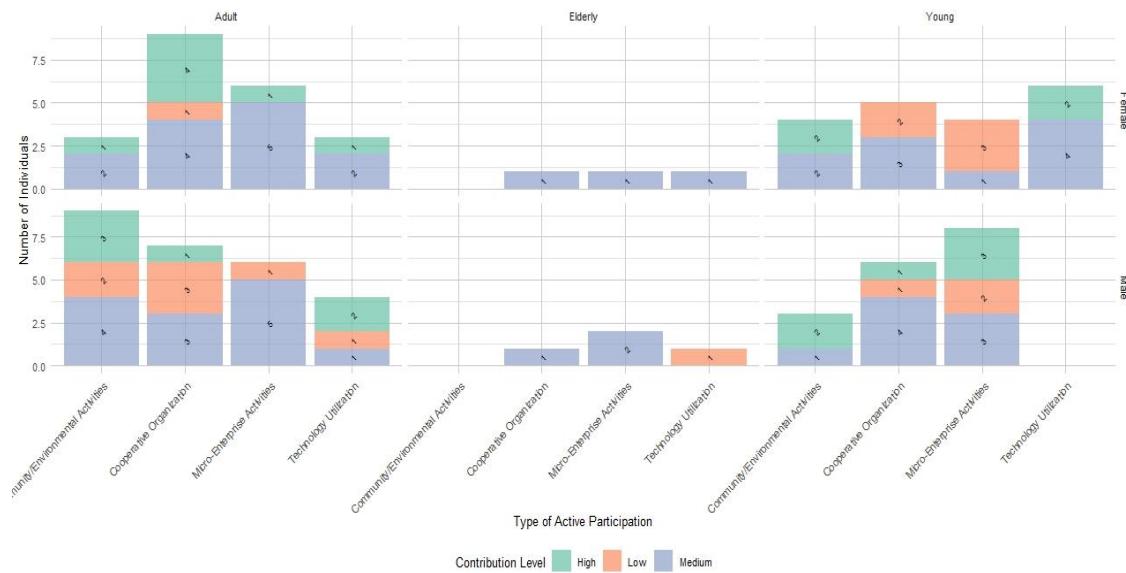


Figure 1. Active Participation of Community Groups.

Source: processed by the researcher (2025)

The Figure 2 is the multidimensional nature of active community participation in local economic development. The plot captures four main types of active participation: cooperative organization, micro-enterprise activities, community or environmental initiatives, and technology utilization. These categories reflect the diverse ways in which residents of Tanjung Laut Indah

engage with development programs, moving beyond mere attendance to substantive contributions that enhance both social cohesion and economic outcomes. By segmenting the data across additional dimensions—age group, gender, and contribution level—the visualization highlights the heterogeneity of active participation and provides a more nuanced understanding of the dynamics at play.

Each bar in the stacked chart represents the number of individuals engaged in a particular type of activity, with color coding indicating their level of contribution, ranging from low to high. This allows for an immediate visual assessment of not only the distribution of participation types but also the intensity of engagement within each category. Furthermore, the use of a facet grid separating data by gender and age group enables the observation of interaction effects between demographic characteristics and participation patterns. For example, adult participants dominate cooperative organization activities, whereas younger residents are more prevalent in technology utilization initiatives. Such distinctions underscore the importance of considering demographic diversity when designing and implementing development programs, as the effectiveness of initiatives is often contingent upon aligning interventions with the capacities, motivations, and preferences of specific community subgroups (Ude, 2025).

The inclusion of numerical labels on each bar, while enhancing quantitative interpretability, contributes to the visual complexity of the figure. This complexity reflects the real-world challenges inherent in participatory development, where engagement is not uniform but shaped by intersecting social, economic, and institutional factors. Moreover, the visualization emphasizes that high participation in active forms of engagement is not solely determined by opportunity but also by the community's capacity to organize, innovate, and sustain collective action. From a methodological perspective, the layered approach used in this visualization allows researchers and policymakers to identify patterns of participation that may otherwise remain obscured in aggregate analyses, thereby informing targeted strategies for enhancing community involvement and ensuring the sustainability of local development initiatives.

The complex visualization of active participation demonstrates that effective local economic development relies on recognizing and fostering diversity in engagement. By mapping multiple dimensions simultaneously, it becomes evident that promoting active participation requires tailored approaches that consider age, gender, contribution level, and type of activity. Such insights are critical for policymakers and development practitioners aiming to design programs that not only encourage participation but also strengthen the community's role as the principal actor in driving sustainable economic growth.

## Factors Hindering Community Participation

Despite the potential benefits of community involvement in local economic development, various factors can limit or inhibit active participation. These barriers may include limited individual capacity, lack of motivation, insufficient access to resources, social or institutional constraints, and conflicting interests among community members. Understanding these inhibiting factors is crucial, as they not only explain the observed variability in participation levels but also provide guidance for designing strategies to overcome obstacles. By identifying and addressing the key impediments, policymakers and development practitioners can foster more inclusive, effective, and sustainable engagement, ensuring that a greater proportion of the community can contribute meaningfully to local development initiatives.

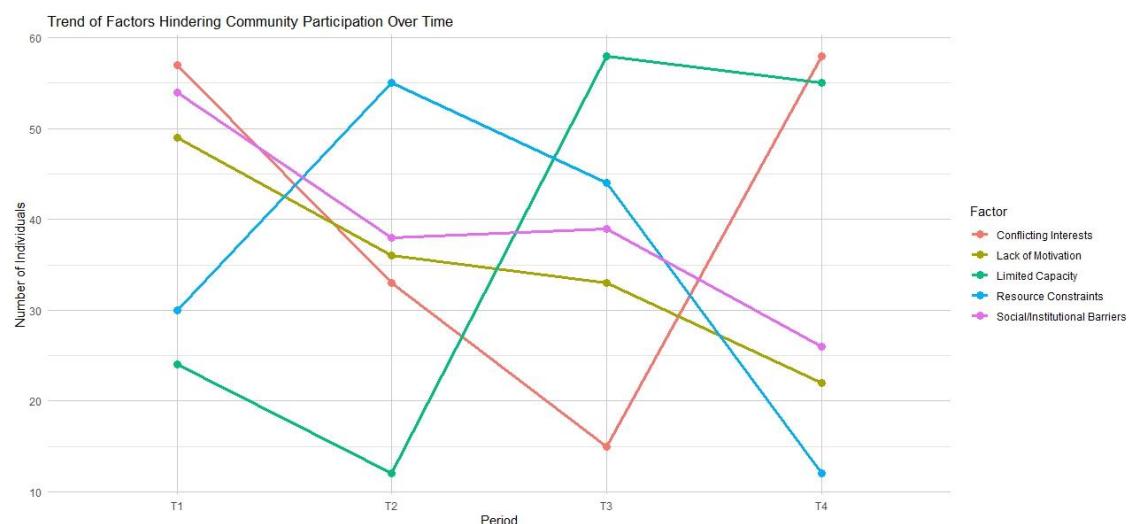


Figure 3 Factors Hindering Community Participation

Source: processed by the researcher (2025)

The complex line chart presented in Figure 3 illustrates the temporal dynamics of factors that hinder community participation in local economic development. The visualization captures five primary categories of hindering factors—limited capacity, lack of motivation, resource constraints, social/institutional barriers, and conflicting interests—across twelve consecutive periods. By incorporating demographic dimensions such as age group (young, adult, elderly) and gender (male, female), the chart depicts the nuanced heterogeneity in how these factors influence individual engagement over time. Each line represents a unique combination of factor, age group, and gender, providing a multidimensional perspective on the patterns of participation.

The dense overlay of multiple lines, combined with the use of color for factor type, line type for age group, and point shape for gender, intentionally creates a visually complex representation. This complexity mirrors the intricate nature of participatory behavior in real-world communities, where the influence of hindering factors is neither uniform nor static. For instance,

certain barriers such as resource constraints may predominantly affect adult participants, while social or institutional barriers might be more salient for the elderly. The high density of lines and overlapping trends emphasizes the variability and interaction effects among demographic groups, highlighting that interventions aimed at enhancing participation must account for these differential impacts (Paskett et al., 2016).

From a methodological standpoint, this multi-layered trend analysis enables researchers and policymakers to identify periods and subgroups most affected by specific hindering factors. By tracking fluctuations over time, it becomes possible to pinpoint when and for whom targeted interventions—such as capacity-building programs, motivational incentives, or resource allocation—would be most effective. Consequently, the visualization underscores that fostering active community engagement is contingent not only on addressing general barriers but also on recognizing the temporal and demographic specificity of participation constraints. In sum, the figure demonstrates that the pathways to enhancing local economic development are inherently complex, requiring nuanced, data-informed strategies that consider both the diversity of community members and the evolving nature of obstacles to participation.

## DISCUSSION

### Community Participation in Local Economic Development

Community participation in local economic development in Tanjung Laut Indah Village reveals a heterogeneous landscape shaped by differences in motivation, capacity, and social perspectives. Simulation results indicate that while approximately forty-five percent of the population actively engages in development programs, substantial portions remain passive, non-participatory, or even counterproductive. This diversity challenges the assumption that engagement is uniform and underscores the need for programs to consider nuanced social dynamics (Spalanzani & Zouaghi, 2025). Active participants, including fishermen, housewives, and technologically skilled youth, exemplify the potential of grassroots-driven initiatives to create economic value, strengthen social cohesion, and sustain program outcomes. In contrast, passive or obstructive behaviors highlight vulnerabilities in initiatives that rely solely on external incentives or fail to address local priorities. These findings suggest that successful interventions require more than superficial engagement, emphasizing intrinsic motivation, equitable opportunities, and mechanisms for meaningful community influence in decision-making processes (Baxter et al., 2023).

The multidimensional dynamics of participation are further illuminated through analyses that integrate demographic, occupational, and economic variables, revealing patterns obscured by aggregate statistics. For instance, adult fishermen dominate active engagement in traditional

sectors, whereas youth drive involvement in technology-based micro and small enterprises (Harinurdin et al., 2025). Housewives contribute through small-scale economic activities such as food production and handicrafts, demonstrating that participation manifests in diverse forms across social roles. These patterns indicate the importance of tailored, evidence-based interventions that recognize generational, occupational, and social heterogeneity. Multidimensional visualizations and analyses provide a practical tool for policymakers to identify target groups for capacity-building, anticipate sources of social resistance, and design programs that align with local priorities and capacities (Mashwama & Phesa, 2025).

From a policy perspective, the experience of Tanjung Laut Indah underscores the necessity of integrated approaches that foster meaningful, inclusive, and sustainable participation. Beyond material incentives, programs must cultivate intrinsic motivation, trust, and a sense of ownership to ensure enduring engagement. Leveraging existing local capacities—such as the expertise of fishermen, entrepreneurial skills of housewives, and technological knowledge of youth—enhances the effectiveness of development initiatives while promoting social cohesion. Continuous monitoring and adaptive feedback mechanisms further support responsiveness to evolving community needs. Ultimately, recognizing and addressing the heterogeneity of community engagement ensures that local economic development initiatives yield equitable benefits and foster a resilient, empowered community capable of sustaining growth over time.

### **Forms of Active Community Participation**

The analysis of active community participation in Tanjung Laut Indah Village underscores the intricate and multifaceted ways in which residents contribute to local economic development, revealing that engagement manifests across a spectrum of forms, motivations, and capacities. Active participation encompasses cooperative organization, micro-enterprise activities, community and environmental initiatives, and the integration of technology into economic processes, each reflecting different dimensions of local knowledge, skill sets, and innovative potential (Creech et al., 2014; Mayanja et al., 2025). Cooperative activities, for instance, often involve adult community members who draw on accumulated experience and social networks to manage collective resources, facilitate collaborative decision-making, and maintain mechanisms for mutual accountability. These forms of engagement not only generate tangible economic benefits, such as improved productivity or income diversification, but also foster intangible outcomes, including social cohesion, trust, and the reinforcement of shared norms that support long-term program sustainability (Lumpkin & Bacq, 2019; Spagano, 2025). At the same time, youth engagement in technology-driven or entrepreneurial initiatives exemplifies a different but complementary dimension of active participation. Leveraging digital literacy, creative problem-

solving, and entrepreneurial ambition, young participants introduce new economic opportunities that expand the local market, enhance competitiveness, and stimulate innovation within the village economy. Housewives and other demographic groups contribute through micro-enterprises, home-based production, and informal economic activities, demonstrating that participation is not limited to formal structures but extends to everyday economic behaviors that cumulatively enhance household income, community welfare, and resilience. Recognizing this diversity, it becomes evident that active participation is far from monolithic; rather, it constitutes a spectrum of contributions that collectively reinforce the economic and social fabric of the village. Policymakers and development practitioners are therefore tasked with designing strategies that both leverage existing capacities and nurture emerging competencies, ensuring that participation remains dynamic, inclusive, and aligned with the evolving needs and aspirations of the community (Zamiri & Esmaeili, 2024).

The multidimensional visualization presented in Figure 2 further elucidates these patterns, revealing how engagement intensity varies across demographic dimensions such as age, gender, and levels of contribution. The heterogeneity exposed by these analyses demonstrates that youth tend to dominate participation in technology-based initiatives and entrepreneurial ventures, while adults are more prevalent in cooperative and collective organizational activities. Gender dynamics also influence engagement, with women contributing significantly to household-based enterprises and social initiatives, reflecting the intersection of economic and caregiving responsibilities. By capturing these variations, the visualization underscores the critical importance of tailoring development programs to demographic strengths and interests, ensuring that initiatives resonate with participants' intrinsic motivations while addressing their specific capacities and constraints (Chowdhury & Alzarrad, 2025). Furthermore, these patterns highlight the interdependence between social and economic roles in shaping participation: the effectiveness of local development initiatives is contingent not only on the resources mobilized but also on the ability to cultivate collaboration, trust, and shared ownership among diverse groups (Sjölander - Lindqvist et al., 2015). Skill development, therefore, is inseparable from social cohesion; programs that enhance technical or entrepreneurial capabilities must simultaneously foster opportunities for collective decision-making, mutual support, and recognition of contributions (Felgueira et al., 2024). The visualization also illuminates potential gaps and underutilized capacities within the community, suggesting areas where targeted interventions—such as mentorship programs, training workshops, or access to digital tools—can elevate participation, diversify engagement, and ensure that all demographic groups can meaningfully contribute to local economic and social outcomes. By linking empirical insights to policy design, these analyses

provide a foundation for evidence-based strategies that maximize both the quantity and quality of community engagement (Kelly & Given, 2024; Oliver et al., 2022).

Ultimately, these findings reinforce the argument that sustainable local economic development in Tanjung Laut Indah relies on nurturing a diverse array of active participation forms while recognizing and leveraging the unique contributions of different demographic groups. Programs that successfully engage adults, youth, women, and other stakeholders in complementary roles can generate a synergy that strengthens both economic productivity and social cohesion, producing outcomes that are resilient, equitable, and enduring (Gebremeskel et al., 2025). Developing tailored strategies that accommodate varied motivations, capacities, and social contexts enhances local ownership, ensuring that initiatives are not externally imposed but co-created with the community (Bradley & Mahmoud, 2024). This co-creation fosters intrinsic motivation, accountability, and a sense of shared purpose, which are essential for maintaining participation over time and sustaining development gains (Waseem et al., 2021). Moreover, by embedding mechanisms for continuous feedback, skill enhancement, and inclusive decision-making, development programs can adapt to evolving community needs, respond to emerging challenges, and harness the full potential of local human capital. The evidence from Tanjung Laut Indah demonstrates that active participation is both an economic and social process, one that requires deliberate attention to diversity, equity, and empowerment in order to achieve meaningful and lasting improvements in local well-being (Hashim et al., 2025). In conclusion, fostering such a multifaceted approach to participation ensures that local economic development initiatives are not only effective in generating material outcomes but also transformative in building a resilient, cohesive, and capable community capable of sustaining growth and prosperity over the long term.

### **Factors Hindering Community Participation**

Despite the potential for active engagement in local economic development, the analysis of Tanjung Laut Indah Village reveals a complex array of factors that inhibit participation, reflecting the multifaceted nature of community dynamics. Key barriers include limited individual and collective capacity, lack of intrinsic motivation, constraints in material and financial resources, social or institutional obstacles, and competing or conflicting interests among community members (Gkrimpizi et al., 2023). Each of these factors operates in distinct ways, often interacting with one another to compound their effects. Limited capacity, for example, may encompass gaps in knowledge, skills, or experience necessary to participate effectively in economic initiatives, whereas lack of motivation can stem from perceived irrelevance of programs, prior negative experiences, or insufficient recognition of community contributions (Akpe et al., 2023). Resource constraints further limit participation by restricting access to capital,

equipment, or time, which are essential for sustained engagement in entrepreneurial, cooperative, or technological activities (Indrawati et al., 2020). Simultaneously, social and institutional barriers, including entrenched hierarchies, bureaucratic inefficiencies, or exclusionary practices, may impede involvement among marginalized groups, particularly the elderly or those with lower social standing. Conflicting interests, whether arising from competition over scarce resources or divergent priorities among demographic groups, can also undermine collective action and erode trust, creating additional challenges for program implementation (Ratner et al., 2017). The interplay among these inhibiting factors highlights the need for a nuanced understanding of the social, economic, and institutional contexts that shape participation, revealing that engagement cannot be assumed but must be actively facilitated through informed, context-sensitive strategies.

The temporal and demographic dimensions of these hindrances are particularly revealing, as illustrated in Figure 3, which maps the variability of constraints across age groups, gender, and over time. Resource limitations, for instance, are shown to predominantly affect adults, who often shoulder primary economic responsibilities and household obligations, limiting their capacity to engage in development initiatives consistently. Social and institutional barriers, on the other hand, exert a more pronounced influence on elderly residents, whose participation may be curtailed by traditional hierarchies, limited mobility, or exclusion from decision-making forums. Youth, while generally more adaptable and technologically literate, may encounter motivational barriers or competing demands from education, employment, or social expectations that reduce sustained involvement (Alao & Brink, 2022; Coates, 2016). The overlapping trends revealed in the visualization underscore the non-linear and interdependent nature of these constraints, demonstrating that no single intervention can address all barriers uniformly. Instead, effective strategies must account for temporal fluctuations, recognizing that community members' availability, motivation, and capacity vary over time and across life stages. Understanding these dynamics allows program designers to anticipate periods of low engagement, identify the groups most at risk of exclusion, and implement targeted measures that enhance inclusivity and resilience, thereby ensuring that interventions remain responsive to the evolving realities of the community.

From a practical perspective, addressing these inhibiting factors requires deliberate and evidence-informed approaches that balance the creation of opportunities with the mitigation of obstacles. Capacity-building initiatives tailored to specific demographic groups can strengthen the skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary for meaningful participation, while incentive mechanisms—ranging from financial support to social recognition—can foster motivation and reinforce commitment. Equitable allocation of resources ensures that constraints do not

disproportionately disadvantage certain subgroups, helping to level the playing field and promote broader engagement (Ticona Machaca et al., 2025). Crucially, the interplay between structural limitations and individual motivation highlights that participation is not simply a matter of providing access; it also involves cultivating conditions in which individuals feel empowered, capable, and recognized for their contributions. By combining targeted interventions with continuous monitoring and adaptive management, development programs can respond to emergent barriers, adjust strategies based on real-time insights, and maintain momentum even in the face of fluctuating community circumstances. Ultimately, these insights underscore the necessity of nuanced, contextually informed approaches to participatory development, where the success of local economic programs depends not only on enabling engagement but also on understanding, anticipating, and mitigating the diverse and dynamic obstacles that can hinder sustained community involvement. By integrating these perspectives, policymakers and practitioners can foster more resilient, inclusive, and effective development processes that harness the full potential of the community while ensuring equitable access to economic opportunities and social participation.

## CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that community participation in local economic development in Tanjung Laut Indah Village is highly heterogeneous and closely aligned with the research objectives of identifying participation patterns, underlying determinants, and their implications for sustainable development. The results show that active participation—particularly among fishermen, women engaged in micro-enterprises, and technologically skilled youth—has the potential to generate economic value, strengthen social cohesion, and support locally driven development initiatives. In contrast, passive, non-participatory, and counterproductive behaviors reflect structural constraints, including limited capacities, resource shortages, institutional barriers, and misaligned incentives, which were extensively discussed in relation to demographic and socio-economic contexts.

The key findings highlight that meaningful participation cannot be achieved through program provision alone but requires integrated strategies that combine capacity building, inclusive decision-making mechanisms, and equitable access to resources. These findings imply that policymakers and practitioners must shift from predominantly top-down approaches toward participatory, asset-based development models that recognize diverse community roles and motivations.

This research contributes to the existing body of knowledge by empirically classifying participation typologies within a sustainable livelihood perspective, thereby enriching theoretical

and practical understandings of participatory local economic development in coastal and peri-urban settings. Future research should extend this analysis through longitudinal and comparative studies across different regions, as well as by integrating quantitative measures to assess the long-term impacts of participatory interventions on economic resilience, social equity, and community empowerment.

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