




## APPLIED PAPER

# The Effect of Public Service and Leadership on giving Meaning to Life and Community Participation in Villages Development (Case Study: Jambi Province, Indonesia)

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ARTICLE INFO		ABSTRACT
<b>Article History:</b> <i>Received: 13 November 2021</i> <i>Revised: 03 January 2022</i> <i>Accepted: 01 February 2022</i>		<b>SUBJECT AND OBJECTIVES:</b> The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of public service and leadership on giving meaning to life and community participation in village development in Jambi Province, for this purpose, the villages of Jambi province in Indonesia were examined as a case study.  <b>METHOD AND FINDING:</b> This research was conducted using quantitative and descriptive methods. Based on this, data obtained by using a questionnaire to the respondents as many as 277 people. Determination of the research sample using area sampling technique, from the district, sub-district and village levels. Also, data were analyzed using multiple regression statistical techniques.  <b>CONCLUSION:</b> The results showed that the public service variable had a significant effect on community participation in village development. The leadership variable also has a significant effect on giving meaning to life and community participation in villages development. Therefore and Simultaneously, the variables of public service and leadership have a significant effect on giving meaning to life and community participation in villages development. Accordingly, it is recommended to the government to improve public services both in quantity and quality and show democratic leadership in order to further increase community participation in giving meaning to life and villages development.
<b>Key Words:</b> <i>Public Service</i>  <i>Leadership</i>  <i>Meaning to Life</i>  <i>Community Participation</i>  <i>Villages Development</i>		
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## **Introduction**

The main goal of development is to create an enabling environment for its people to enjoy long, healthy and productive lives. In accordance with the mandate of Law concerning villages, the purpose of village development is to improve the welfare of rural communities and the quality of human life and to reduce poverty through fulfilling basic needs, building village facilities and infrastructure, building local economic potential and utilizing natural resources and the environment in a sustainable manner. (*Lembaran RI Tahun, Vol. 6, 2014*)

Through the development carried out, it can be

directed to improve welfare, strengthen community resilience and the basis of economic, social, cultural, political, security and social resilience. In its implementation, the principles of self-help and mutual cooperation are still prioritized, with some existing policies or programs that apply should be harmonized with the different potentials and conditions in each region. Therefore, to overcome the problems that occur in the region must be adapted to each case that occurs in it. (*Tomasi et al, 2019*)

## **Problem Statement**

Participation means conscious and voluntary participation to participate physically and non-physically in activities ranging from planning,

implementation, evaluation and utilization of development results. If the definition of participation is detailed, it contains the following elements:

1. Participation or involvement in an activity
2. Voluntary awareness
3. A pro-active attitude
4. Contributions made, both physical and non-physical
5. The existence of agreements. (*Moch, 2014: 145*)

Community participation in development is still very minimal, this is in line with the results of research conducted, which states that community participation in development is still low and is influenced by several factors, namely: limited public understanding, the absence of the principle of equality

in a forum, the existence of a pessimistic and apathetic attitude of the community, when the community clashes with the implementation of development. (*Sigalingging and Warjio, 2014*)

Social harmonization is a very important factor in the life of a multicultural society to realize equal participation for all people in development. (*Włodarska-Frykowska, 2017*)

However, in reality, each place has a different level of participation. There are many factors that make the community reluctant to participate in the development, both individually by the community itself and the support and encouragement of community leaders in the District.

The character of the village community can basically be seen through local organizations that grow and develop in the community, social capital, leadership styles and conflict management mechanisms, these four of which greatly affect community participation in the socio-economic realm, as well as in governance and village development. This means that these four elements contribute to the rise and fall of the degree and intensity of community participation.

Jambi is one of the provinces that have the Developing Village Index (IDM) in the developing category, which is 0.69. Almost all IDM districts in Jambi Province are below

0.71 and there is only 1 district that is classified as independent, namely Sungai Penuh City and classified as advanced Batanghari Regency. (*Badan Pusan Statistik Provinsi Jambi, 2022*) This condition illustrates the not yet maximal development carried out by the government and the level of community participation.

Community participation is influenced by several factors, one of which is public service and leadership. Public service is the provision of services (serving) carried out by public service providers (government) as an effort to fulfil the needs and needs of service recipients or the community as well as implementing provisions of

laws and regulations that have an interest in the organization in accordance with the basic rules and procedures that have been established. Determined. (*Mubarok and Suparman, 2019: 12*)

Meanwhile, leadership is how an individual becomes a leader to try to influence his subordinates to want to work together to achieve an organization's goals. (*Ref: Tristina and Widagdo, 2019*)

Thus it can be concluded that public services and leadership certainly have a role in increasing on giving meaning to life and community participation in villages development. This is in line with the results of research conducted, that the variable quality of public

services has a positive and significant influence on community satisfaction, which is 35,5%. (*Ref: Velayati, 2018*)

Based on the problems and various previous studies, it is necessary to study more deeply the influence of public services and leadership on giving meaning to life and community participation in development in Jambi Province.

## **Research Methods**

The research method used in this study is a quantitative method. The research data was obtained from a random sample of the community. Determination of the sample is carried out using the area sampling technique from the district, sub-district and village

levels. (*Sugiyono, 2017*) the Solvin technique, as Determination of the shown in the following number of samples using table:

**Table 1: Research Sample**

No	Regency	Subdistrict	Total population	Sample
1	Tanjung Jabung Timur	Nipah Panjang	26,503	33
		Rantau Rasau	24,780	31
		Sadu	13,401	17
2	Tanjung Jabung Barat	Tungkal Ilir	72,795	90
		Pengabuan	25,514	32
		Betara	3,563	4
3	Bungo	Tanah Sepenggal Lintas	23,401	29
		Tanah Sepenggal	23,293	29
		Rantau Pandan	10,324	13
	Total	223,574		277

Source: *Indeks Desa Membangun, Vol. 2, 2016*

The data were analyzed using multiple regression statistical techniques after fulfilling the analysis prerequisite tests, namely normality test, multicollinearity test, and heteroscedasticity test.

of public services can be seen in the following table:

## Results and Discussion

### 1. Description of Public Service

Public service is an illustration of how the quality of the bureaucracy in service. The description

**Table 2: Distribution of Public Service Frequency**

Interval			Category	F	Percentage (%)
13	-	16	Very high	52	18.77
9	-	12	High	203	73.29
5	-	8	Low	22	7.94
1	-	4	Very low	0	0.00
Total				277	100.00

Source: *Badan Pusan Statistik Provinsi Jambi, 2022*

Based on Table 2, it is explained that most (73.29%) of the people in the study area rate the public services provided by the village government in the high category and 52 percent rate it very high. There are 7.94 percent of the people who assess the public services provided by the village government in the low category.

**2. Description of Village Head Leadership**

Leaders are individuals who lead and leaders are traits that must be possessed by a leader, while leadership is an effort to influence others by providing encouragement and guidance in working together to pursue mutually agreed goals. (*Badu, 2017: 32*)

**Table 3: Distribution of Village Head Leadership Frequency**

Interval			Category	F	Percentage (%)
13	-	16	Very high	50	18.05
9	-	12	High	202	72.92
5	-	8	Low	24	8.66
1	-	4	Very low	1	0.36
Total				277	100.00

Source: *Badan Pusan Statistik Provinsi Jambi, 2022*



Based on Table 3, it is explained that most (72.92%) of the people in the study area rate that the leadership of the village government is in the high category and 18.05 percent rate it very high. There are 8.66 percent who rate it low and 0.36 percent very low.

### 3. Description of giving Meaning to Life and Community Participation in Villages Development

The principle of participation is oriented to community resources, the opportunity to participate is wide open so that the community can participate actively and freely in development activities starting from the stages of design, implication, to evaluation.

**Table 4: Description of Community Participation in Life and Villages Development Frequency**

Interval			Category	F	Percentage (%)
13	-	16	Very high	85	30.69
9	-	12	High	116	41.88
5	-	8	Low	75	27.08
1	-	4	Very low	1	0.36
Total				277	100.00

Source: *Badan Pusan Statistik Provinsi Jambi, 2022*

Based on Table 4, it is explained that most (41.88%) and 30.69 percent are in the very high category. There are 27 percent of the people who have participation in giving meaning to life and village development in the low category and 0.36 percent in the very low category.

#### 4. Regression Analysis Results

Regression analysis was conducted to determine the level of influence of the variables of public service and leadership on giving meaning to life and community participation in village development either partially or simultaneously, as shown in Table 5 below:

**Tabel 5: Output Regression**

Variabel	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value
Intercept	0.800	0.999	0.801	0.424
X <sub>1</sub>	0.536	0.107	4.983	0.000
X <sub>2</sub>	0.288	0.096	3.010	0.003

R Square = 0,26  
F = 47.30

Based on Table 5, the X1 coefficient value is positive at 0.536, indicating that if public services increase by one unit, it will increase community participation in giving meaning to life and village development by 0.536 units. The value of the X2 coefficient is positive at 0.288, meaning that if the village government leadership variable increases by one unit, it will increase community participation in giving meaning to life and village development by 0.288 units. The two independent variables have a statistically significant effect on the dependent variable either partially or simultaneously at an error rate of 5 percent, mathematically it can be

written in the following equation:

$$Y = -3,723 + 1,124 X_1 + 0,602 X_2 + e$$

Based on the value of R Square (0.26), the model is classified as weak as a predictor of the effect of public service and leadership variables on community participation in giving meaning to life and villages development. This is because there are many other variables that affect community participation in giving meaning to life and villages development that have not been included in the model. Besides that, in general, cross section data has a small coefficient of determination compared to time series data because each observation has a large variation. (*Ghazali, 2013*)

### **5. The Influence of Public Services on Community Participation**

Good quality public services is a community need to participate in every development movement in the village. Public services are basically present to answer the unrest experienced by the community due to the services provided by government officials. Quality public services will make it easier for the community to participate and obtain their rights. Therefore, good management will directly affect the quality of service.

The findings in this study indicate that public services provided to the community do not encourage their participation in village development. This is understandable because the

services provided by the village government to the community are still very minimal so these services have little effect on community participation in village development. Therefore, it is necessary to socialize with the community about various interests in the population that must be fulfilled and supported by good services in facilitating it.

As the findings of *Ibrahim et al (2020)* in their research explain; if services are managed well, it will increase community participation in giving meaning to life and villages development. The same thing was also revealed by *Baharuddin (2019)* in his research in the Sirongo Folaraha village, if the administrative services

provided by the village apparatus to the community are good, it will increase their participation in development and also, on giving meaning to life. Good service will build a strong bond between the community and the government thereby creating great opportunities for the community to participate in development. (*Anders-Morawska, 2017*)

The benefits felt by the community from the services provided by the government will form an idealistic attitude to continue to participate in development. The findings conducted by *Anders-Morawska (2017)* in his research state that idealistic people will continue to participate in

organizations even though they are limited by economic conditions and access to infrastructure.

#### **6. The Influence of Leadership on Community Participation**

Leadership is an attempt to influence others to be able to carry out the programs that have been planned. If the government leadership is good, then the community tends to participate in village development.

The findings of *Mohulaingo et al (2022)* in their research state that transformative leadership has a significant influence on giving meaning to life and community participation in Pilohayanga village. A successful leader is a leader who tries to pay attention,

invite, move, and give a positive influence through the power he gains over his subordinates.

The findings in this study indicate that the leadership of the village head has a positive and significant influence on giving meaning to life and community participation in villages development. The positive influence shown by the leadership of the village head on giving meaning to life and and village community participation indicates a good form of leadership played by the village head in running village government so that it becomes a driving force for community participation in village development.

The village head is a leader in community life who acts as a driver, controller and person in charge of development programs. A leadership actor who has the strength and skills will be influential in perfecting the collaboration agenda that is built in the midst of people's lives; (*Valkama et al, 2019*) So that if the development program provides great benefits for people's lives, it will mobilize community awareness in giving meaning to life and villages development. These findings are supported by the findings of *Rahmannuddin and Sumardjo (2018)* in their research which explains that leadership has a positive effect on

community participation in giving meaning to life and villages development.

The results of *Horlings et al (2018)* research also confirm that effective leadership will reflect togetherness and the spirit of collaboration so as to form better performance. The strong will of leaders to realize good governance and supported by citizen participation is the key to successful transformation in people's lives. (*Muñiz Martínez, 2019*)

Thus, encouragement is needed to raise public awareness to participate even with a mobilization pattern where participation is carried out on the basis of encouragement and influence from others. (*Rahmawati, 2016*)

## **Conclusion**

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion that has been carried out, it can be concluded that the public services provided by the village apparatus greatly affect the level of community participation in giving meaning to life and villages development. The leadership shown by the village government also significantly influences community participation in giving meaning to life and villages development. Simultaneously, if public services are supported by good leadership, it will further increase community participation in giving meaning to life and villages development.

Therefore, it is suggested to the village government to increase the quantity and quality of services needed by the community. In addition, the village government must also be wise and open in running the government, be more responsive to the problems faced by the community, and seek to involve all elements of society in order to create a democratic life so that it will further increase community participation in giving meaning to life and villages development.

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