

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: A CASE STUDY OF GAMPONG BLANG GEULUMPANG

Yunita Arafah^{1*}, Gadis Afra Zahara¹, Farisa Sabila¹

¹ Department of Architecture and Planning, Faculty of Engineering,
Universitas Syiah Kuala, Banda Aceh City 23111, INDONESIA

Corresponding E-mail: yunitaarafah@usk.ac.id^{1*}, gadisafrazahara@gmail.com², farisabila@usk.ac.id³

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the influence of social capital on community participation in Gampong Blang Geulumpang, particularly in the development of the Idi Nusantara Fisheries Port (PPN). Social capital components, including trust, norms, and tolerance, are considered vital in enhancing community engagement. A quantitative approach was employed using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) processed through SmartPLS 4.0 software. Primary data were collected from 86 respondents selected through purposive sampling. The findings suggest that social capital has a significant impact on community participation. Trust and norms are the most contributing elements, while tolerance creates a conducive environment, but has no direct effect on participation. The study recommends strengthening social capital elements, particularly trust and norms, to support active and sustainable participation in development efforts. The results are expected to serve as a reference for policymakers and academics in managing social capital in coastal areas.

Keywords: *Social Capital, Community Participation, Port Development, PPN Idi, SEM-PLS.*

INTRODUCTION

Social capital can be defined as a non-physical resource that arises from social relationships, trust, norms, and networks within a community. In the context of regional development, social capital plays a crucial role in encouraging community participation, which ultimately accelerates development success. Putnam (1993) states that social capital not only improves community efficiency through coordinated action but also serves as a crucial foundation for community participation in various development activities. Social capital encompasses trust between individuals, cooperative networks, and norms that govern social interactions. These three elements are interconnected in creating social dynamics that support regional development. In coastal areas such as Gampong Blang Geulumpang, social capital plays a strategic role in building harmonious relationships between the community and the government and other relevant parties. Trust is a key factor in strengthening community participation. When communities have trust in the government or institutions managing the port area, they tend to be more actively involved in development activities. Furthermore, prevailing social norms also determine the level of participation. These norms can take the form of traditions of cooperation, habits of deliberation, or cultural values that support cooperation.

Coastal development is a key focus of national development. Coastal areas have significant potential to boost the local economy through various activities, such as fisheries, transportation, and tourism. One important initiative in coastal area management is the development of the Nusantara Fisheries Port (PPN). The Idi PPN, located in Blang Geulumpang Village, Idi Rayeuk District, East Aceh Regency, is an example of a port that has become a center of economic activity in the region. Along with its role as a fish landing center, this port also has a significant social impact on the surrounding community. As a coastal area, Blang Geulumpang Village has unique characteristics. The majority of its residents depend on the fisheries sector for their livelihood, both directly and indirectly. Community involvement in port activities reflects the close relationship between economic, cultural, and social aspects. However, the development of this port area also brings its challenges, particularly in terms of sustainability and inclusiveness. One key factor in addressing these challenges is the existence of social capital.

However, on the other hand, the challenges in managing social capital cannot be ignored. Social changes resulting from the development of port areas often disrupt existing social capital. An example is conflict between individuals or groups caused by differing interests or views regarding resource management. Furthermore, a lack of community understanding of the importance of preserving social capital can hinder their participation in development. This study aims to analyze the influence of social capital on community participation in Gampong Blang Geulumpang due to the development of the Idi PPN area. This study is important given the limited number of studies specifically exploring the relationship between social capital and community participation in coastal areas. Using a quantitative approach through the Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), this study seeks to identify the most significant elements of social capital in encouraging community participation. It is also expected to provide recommendations for the government and other stakeholders in designing more inclusive and sustainable regional development strategies.

Furthermore, the urgency of this research is increasingly relevant in the context of evolving globalization and modernization. In this era, communities are required to be more adaptive to change. However, this adaptation does not always occur smoothly, especially in coastal communities that have limited access to education, technology, and information. Social capital can be a bridge to overcome these limitations. By optimizing the potential of social capital, coastal communities can be more empowered in facing global challenges. In the context of Gampong Blang Geulumpang, social capital is also a crucial element in maintaining the community's cultural identity. As a community with strong traditions and cultural values, the people in this area have great potential to contribute to the development of the port area. However, this potential can only be realized if the existing social capital is optimally utilized. Therefore, this research focuses not only on measuring social capital and community participation, but also on understanding how the socio-cultural dynamics in the area influence the successful development of the Idi PPN.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Social capital is a social asset that includes interpersonal relationships, norms, trust, and tolerance that enable cooperation to achieve common goals. Putnam (1993) defines social capital as social networks, norms, and trust that can increase community efficiency through mutually beneficial coordination of actions. Social capital plays a crucial role in building community participation, particularly in the context of coastal area development such as Gampong Blang Geulumpang. First, trust is a key element of social capital that serves as a foundation for building harmonious relationships between individuals. According to Coleman (in Usman, 2018), trust can strengthen cooperative networks and enable communities to work together voluntarily. In the context of the development of the Idi Archipelago Fisheries Port (PPN), trust in the government and port management is a key factor influencing community participation.

Second, Norms are unwritten rules recognized and adhered to by a society as guidelines for behavior. Putnam (in Scott, 2011) explains that social norms play a role in strengthening community bonds, improving coordination, and reducing conflict. In coastal communities, norms such as cooperation and the tradition of deliberation are forces that encourage collective involvement in decision-making. Third, tolerance is an attitude of accepting differences in views, beliefs, or actions between individuals within a community. Syahra (2000) states that tolerance is an element of social capital that enables harmony to be maintained amidst social and cultural diversity. In the context of coastal communities, tolerance plays a crucial role in building solidarity among community members, particularly in facing external challenges.

Community participation is a form of individual or group involvement in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of development. Community participation involves identifying problems and potentials, selecting solutions, and engaging in implementation and evaluation (Isbandi, 2007). In this study, community participation is seen as a result of the influence of social capital, specifically trust, social norms, and tolerance. Community participation in the context of regional development can take the form of active participation, such as deliberation, or passive participation, such as support for established policies (Hedyan et al, 2021). The level of participation is influenced by elements of social capital, which include mutual trust, cultural norms, and tolerance of differences.

Development of Fishing Port Areas

The Indonesian Fisheries Port (PPN) serves as a strategic center for economic and social activities. According to Lubis (2012), fishing ports play a crucial role in supporting the economic activities of coastal communities, including providing fish landing facilities, distributing catches, and providing employment. The development of the Idi PPN area includes infrastructure improvements, institutional strengthening, and local community empowerment. Aziz et al. (2022) showed that local community involvement in the port area development process can increase development effectiveness while strengthening existing social capital.

2Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)

Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) is a multivariate statistical analysis method used to examine the relationship between latent variables (Juliandi, 2018). This method is relevant for research aimed at evaluating the complex relationship between social capital and community participation. The main components in SEM are latent variables, the measurement model, and the structural model. Latent variables are constructs that cannot be directly observed but can be measured through observed variables (indicators). SEM distinguishes two types of latent variables: first, exogenous variables and second, endogenous variables. Exogenous variables are independent variables that are not influenced by other variables in the model, such as social capital, and endogenous variables are dependent variables that are influenced by other variables, for example, community participation. A measurement model describes the relationship between a latent variable and its indicators. Indicators can be reflective (influenced by the latent variable) or formative (influencing the latent variable). Structural models show causal relationships between latent variables. These models test hypotheses about the influence of one latent variable on another.

METHOD

Idi Archipelago Fisheries Port or Pelabuhan Perikanan Nusantara (PPN) is located in Gampong Blang Geulumpang, Idi Rayeuk District, East Aceh Regency, Aceh Province, Indonesia.

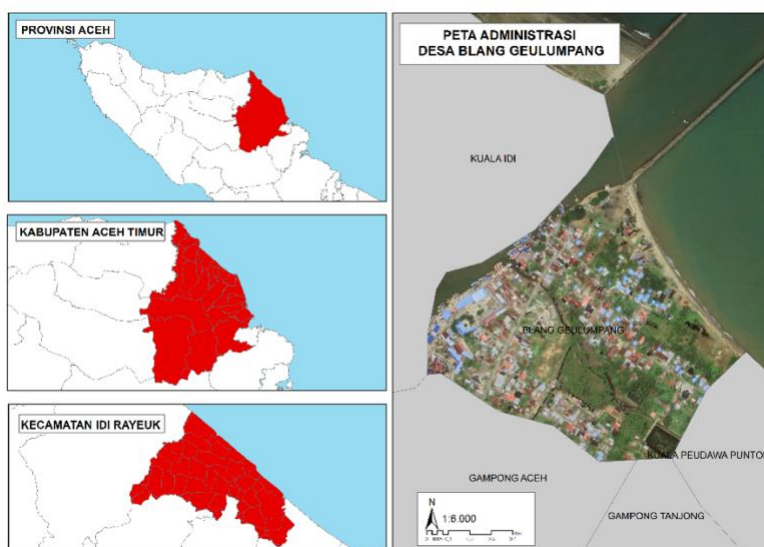


Image: Map of Gampong Blang Geulumpang, East Aceh Regency, Aceh province, Indonesia.

This research was conducted in Gampong Blang Geulumpang, Idi Rayeuk District, East Aceh Regency, located in the coastal area of Aceh, covering an area of approximately 200 hectares. This area borders the Strait of Malacca to the north and west, Gampong Baro to the east, and Gampong Tanjong to the south. Blang Geulumpang Village was chosen as the research location due to its direct link to the activities of the Idi Archipelago Fisheries Port (PPN). This port serves as a landing, auction, and distribution center for fish catches, serving as a key driver of the coastal economy in the region. Based on 2023 data, the village's population reached 2,525, with the majority of residents working as fishermen or in the fisheries sector. The Idi PPN serves as a center for fish surveillance, auctions, and fisheries distribution. The port also provides essential services for fishermen, such as refueling, fishing gear provision, and boat repairs. The existence of the Idi PPN impacts not only the economic sector but also the social aspects of coastal communities, including strengthening social capital and increasing community participation in area management.

Gampong Blang Geulumpang was chosen as the research location because of its unique characteristics: 1. Resource potential: Most of the community depends on the fisheries sector as their main livelihood; 2. Direct Linkage to Idi PPN: Port activities have a major impact on the social, cultural, and economic life of the community; 3. Strong Social Capital: Local traditions such as cooperation and deliberation are an integral part of community life, which is relevant to analyze in the context of port area development.

SEM-PLS Research Results

This research uses Structural Equation Modeling - Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS) to measure the influence of social capital on community participation. The analysis results show a significant relationship between trust and social norms on community participation, while tolerance does not have a positive effect. The results of the validity and reliability tests show that all indicators are valid and reliable:

- AVE for all variables >0.50 (example: trust 0.76, social norms 0.72).
- Composite Reliability (CR) >0.70 for all variables.

Table 1. Path Analysis

Variable Relationship	Path Coefficient	T Statistics	P Value	Importance
Trust → Participation	0.71	13.45	0.000	Means
Social Norms → Participation	0.64	11.12	0.000	Means
Tolerance → Participation	-0.12	1.98	0.048	Does not mean

In model suitability, the R^2 value for community participation is 0.68, indicating that social capital explains 68% of the variation in community participation, while the remainder is influenced by other factors.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Trust as a Dominant Factor

Trust had the most significant influence on community participation (path coefficient 0.71, $p < 0.01$). Communities that trusted the Idi PPN management were more motivated to participate in decision-making related to port area development.

Social Norms Encourage Collective Engagement

Social norms have a significant influence (path coefficient 0.64, $p < 0.01$) in increasing community involvement. The tradition of cooperation strengthens community solidarity, especially in activities such as improving port infrastructure.

Tolerance does not have a Positive Influence

Tolerance showed a negative influence (-0.12, $p = 0.048$), which indicates that a tolerant attitude is often interpreted as "avoiding conflict," thus not encouraging active involvement in development.

CONCLUSION

This study aims to analyze the influence of social capital on community participation in the development of the Idi Archipelago Fisheries Port (PPN) area in Gampong Blang Geulumpang, East Aceh Regency. Based on the results of the analysis using Structural Equation Modeling - Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS), it can be concluded:

1. Trust has the most significant influence on community participation, with a path coefficient of 0.71. A high level of trust between the community and port management encourages active involvement in decision-making and development activities.
2. Social norms also significantly influence community participation, with a linear coefficient of 0.64. Norms such as cooperation and deliberation strengthen community solidarity in supporting port area management.
3. Tolerance, with a path coefficient of -0.12, does not have a positive effect on community participation. Tolerance is often interpreted as "avoiding conflict," thus not encouraging active involvement in development.
4. The research model has an R^2 value of 0.68, which indicates that social capital explains 68% of the variation in community participation, while the remainder is influenced by other factors outside this model.

The existence of the Idi PPN as a center of fisheries activity in East Aceh plays a crucial role in driving economic growth and social development. However, active community participation still needs to be improved through a more inclusive approach and community-based empowerment. Based on the research findings, several recommendations can be given:

1. Strengthening public trust

The government and port managers need to increase transparency in the planning and implementation of port area development. Socializing development programs that directly involve the community can increase their trust in management.

2. Social norms facilities

Community-based programs, such as collective training, group discussions, and mutual cooperation activities, should be supported to strengthen social norms that encourage collective community involvement.

3. The constructive meaning of tolerance

Public education on the importance of active involvement in development is necessary to transform passive tolerance into constructive tolerance. This can be achieved through training on active participation in area management.

4. Local potential-based approach

Integrating the potential of local coastal communities, such as traditional skills in marine resource management, into port area development strategies can increase community ownership and involvement.

5. Further research

Further research is needed to identify other factors beyond social capital that influence community participation, such as economic conditions, education level, and access to technology.

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