

Community Empowerment Through Village Deliberation In RPJMDES 2025 Formulation In Lempangang Village

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Abstract: This study discusses the implementation of Village Deliberation in the discussion and determination of the 2025 Village Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMDES) in Lempangang Village. RPJMDES is a village development planning document prepared for a period of six years, aimed at determining the direction of village development in accordance with community aspirations and local needs. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach, with data collection techniques including in-depth interviews with 12 key informants, participatory observation, and documentation. The results of the study indicate that the Village Deliberation in Lempangang Village was carried out with a good level of community participation, with over 60% attendance of village residents during the deliberation meetings, although community understanding of the technical aspects of planning still needs to be improved. The village government and the Village Consultative Body (BPD) play a central role in facilitating the deliberation, while decision-making is carried out in a deliberative manner through consensus. This planning process is also aligned with national and regional development programs to optimize external support. Constraints faced in the preparation of RPJMDES include limited budget, resources, and coordination between parties. This study recommends increasing community capacity in development planning, strengthening synergy between the village government and BPD, and optimizing local resources. In conclusion, the Village Deliberation in Lempangang Village has created a strong foundation for inclusive and sustainable village development planning.

Keywords: Community Empowerment, RPJMDES, Village Deliberation, Village Development

INTRODUCTION

The Village Deliberation (*Musyawarah Desa*) is an important mechanism in the implementation of village governance, where the community and village government collaborate in making strategic decisions related to village development (Nex et al., 2023). In the national context of Indonesia, the Village Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMDES) holds a strategic position as it serves as a legally mandated planning instrument under Law No. 6 of 2014 on Villages, ensuring alignment of village development with regional and national development goals (Ratnawati et al., 2021). The RPJMDES acts as the primary guideline for village governance and

resource allocation for six years, reflecting the village's development vision and community needs (Khurriyatin et al., 2024). The Village Deliberation plays a central role in formulating policies and programs that directly impact the welfare of the community. One important agenda discussed in this deliberation is the preparation and establishment of the Village Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMDES), which serves as a guide for village development over the next six years. Development can be understood as a process aimed at achieving prosperity for all members of society through economic development and growth. The success of development and a nation's growth can be assessed through economic growth, the economic structure, and the level of disparity among the population, regions, and sectors (Candra et al., 2023). Development is also seen as a planned process of change aimed at improving various aspects of community life, with national development understood as an intentional economic, social, and cultural transformation through policies and strategies directed toward a desired outcome (Andriyani, 2015).

In democratic countries, development can be considered successful if the principle of decentralization is applied effectively (Bjork & Susanti, 2023; Messiou et al., 2022; Rahman et al., 2020; Roy et al., 2020; Sianturi et al., 2023). This principle is realized in regional autonomy policies, which grant local governments the rights, authority, and responsibilities to manage and regulate the affairs and interests of their communities independently, according to applicable regulations. Regional autonomy allows local governments to be more responsive to local needs and provides opportunities for communities to participate in decision-making processes that directly affect their lives (Bjork & Susanti, 2023; Poluan et al., 2022; Thompson, 2023). With regional autonomy, each region has the freedom to design and implement development plans that align with its potential and characteristics, while still in line with national policies. This creates opportunities for more efficient innovation and solutions, as decisions are more aligned with real conditions and needs on the ground. As a result, development can be more directed, effective, and sustainable (I. H. J. Ridwan & Achmad Sodik, 2023; I. Ridwan & Sumirat, 2021).

Law No. 25 of 2004, which regulates the procedures for national development planning, emphasizes the importance of involving the community in the planning process, both in the preparation of the RPJM-Des and RKP-Desa documents (Khotimah & Ula, 2023). Additionally, regulations regarding regional governance, such as Government Regulation No. 43 of 2014, which

is the implementation of Law No. 6 of 2014 on Villages, underline the importance of community involvement in village development planning and implementation. The Minister of Village Development, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration Regulation No. 17 of 2019 on the General Guidelines for Village Community Development and Empowerment also reflects the commitment to involving the community in various aspects to improve welfare by utilizing available village resources (Nursalam et al., 2019).

One step to optimize these regulations is to ensure that village development is well-planned, coordinated, time-bound, and tailored to the specific characteristics of the community and village region (Nurhikmah, 2024). Furthermore, village development implementation must involve active roles from the community, village officials, village institutions, sub-district and district-level institutions (supravillage institutions), and others (Nurhikmah, Nursalam, Eko Prayetno, 2024). The RPJMDesa document is vital as a basic tool to monitor and evaluate the progress of village development, ensuring it remains aligned with the established development planning framework. Therefore, the existence of an RPJMDesa document covering planning, implementation, and oversight of village development is critical (Wicaksono et al., 2021). To improve the village development process, it is necessary to provide support for knowledge and skills in preparing the RPJMDesa document so that village governments can identify the potentials of their village.

In the context of Desa Lempangang, the 2025 Village Deliberation will be a crucial moment to formulate the RPJMDES that reflects the aspirations and needs of the local community. Through this deliberation, various stakeholders, including the village government, community leaders, and representatives of the residents, will engage in dialogue to discuss development policies encompassing social, economic, infrastructure, and environmental aspects. This participatory process is expected to result in a development plan that is not only effective but also inclusive and sustainable. The RPJMDES itself plays a strategic role as a planning document that directs village programs in alignment with the elected village head's vision and mission, as well as development priorities tailored to community needs. Therefore, the Village Deliberation in the discussion and determination of the 2025 RPJMDES in Desa Lempangang is part of an effort to create transparent, accountable, and community-centered village governance. Through the formulation of this

RPJMDES, it is hoped that Desa Lempangang can map out existing potentials and challenges and then develop effective development strategies, maximizing the utilization of available resources to improve the quality of life sustainably.

In this regard, the researcher is reviewing several articles to find novelties and research gaps concerning the Village Development Plan: Community Empowerment through Village Deliberation and RPJMDES Determination. The researcher is analyzing literature from several journal articles using the VOSViewer application to examine existing publications on this topic and assess the relationships between them through a matrix network.

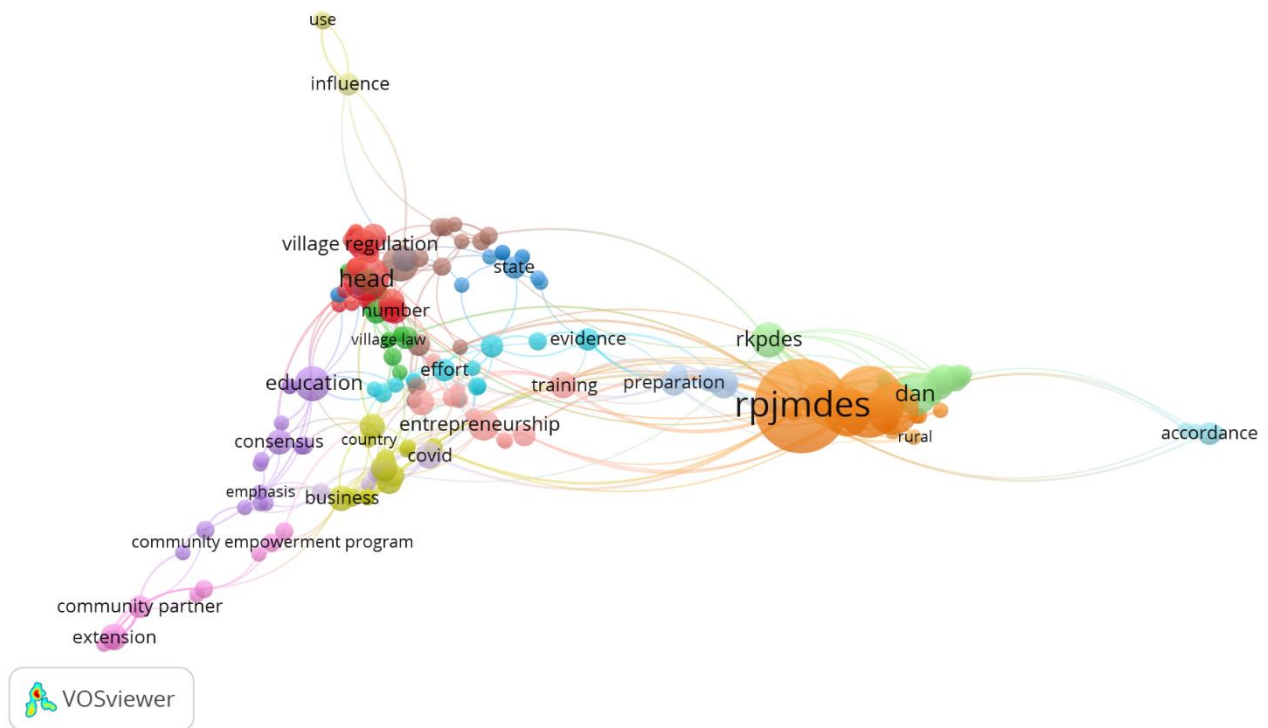


Figure 1. Results of Bibliometric Network Analysis using VOSViewer

Bibliometric analysis using VOSviewer, assisted by Publish or Perish ver.8, reveals that research on the Village Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMDes) from 2020 to 2025 generally discusses aspects of policy formulation (APBDes, ADD), community participation in development deliberations (village heads, LPM), and community empowerment. However, there are several research gaps that need further exploration, such as the effectiveness of the village deliberation in the implementation of RPJMDes, the relationship between village development planning and local

economic development, and the lack of studies on transparency and accountability in the formulation and implementation of RPJMDes.

To address these challenges, this research aims to develop several innovations, such as a more effective participatory model in formulating RPJMDes, strategies that link village development planning with locally-based economic growth, and the implementation of digital systems to enhance transparency and supervision in RPJMDes management. This approach is expected to strengthen RPJMDes as a more inclusive, accountable, and sustainable development instrument, while also providing tangible benefits for the welfare of the village community.

METHOD

This research employs a qualitative descriptive approach (Creswell, 2010) aimed at thoroughly examining the process, dynamics, and outcomes of the Village Deliberation that discusses and establishes the 2025 Village Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMDES) in Desa Lempangang. The qualitative approach is chosen because it aligns with the research objectives to explore the experiences, perspectives, and levels of participation of various stakeholders involved in the village deliberation process. This approach enables an in-depth understanding of factors influencing decisions and interactions during the deliberation, as well as the social and cultural contexts underlying the process (Pratomo & Adi, 2023). The study was conducted in Desa Lempangang, selected as the research location due to its scheduled village deliberation in 2025 for formulating the RPJMDES. This location represents an appropriate setting to observe how participatory village development planning is implemented.

Table 1. *Research Subjects*

Community	Smart Government
• Original residents of Desa Lempangan • Representatives of the village residents • Other parties involved in the deliberation process	• Village head of Lempangan and village officials • Members of the village consultative body (BPD)

The research involved 20 informants selected purposively based on their roles and involvement in the village deliberation process. These informants consisted of 10 community representatives (including community leaders, youth representatives, women's group leaders), 5

village government officials (including the village head and key staff), and 5 members of the Village Consultative Body (BPD). The criteria for informant selection included active participation in the deliberation, knowledge of village development issues, and willingness to provide in-depth information.

Data collection was carried out over a period of three months, from January to March 2025. Observations of the village deliberation meetings were conducted during the entire deliberation period, approximately spanning 4 weeks, while in-depth interviews with informants were conducted individually, each lasting between 45 to 90 minutes, scheduled flexibly according to informants' availability. Data collection techniques include: 1) In-depth interviews: Conducted with key stakeholders such as the village head, BPD members, and community leaders to understand their roles, participation, and perspectives on the RPJMDES. 2) Participatory observation: The researcher directly observes the village deliberation meetings to capture the dynamics, interactions, and decision-making mechanisms. 3) Documentation: Collection of official documents, including minutes of deliberation meetings, RPJMDES drafts, and deliberation notes used in discussions and finalization of the 2025 RPJMDES.

The data will be analyzed thematically through the following steps: 1) Data reduction: Selecting and focusing on data relevant to the research questions. 2) Categorization: Grouping data into themes such as community participation, decision-making mechanisms, and challenges encountered during the deliberation. 3) Conclusion drawing: Formulating interpretations to understand participation patterns and decision-making processes in the Village Deliberation at Desa Lempangang. To ensure data validity and trustworthiness, triangulation techniques were applied by cross-verifying data from multiple sources interviews, observations, and documentation. In addition, member checking was performed by sharing preliminary findings with several key informants to confirm the accuracy and credibility of the interpretations. The researcher also maintained an audit trail of data collection and analysis processes to enhance transparency.

This methodological approach is expected to provide a comprehensive understanding of how the village deliberation process functions, the role of community participation, and factors

influencing the effectiveness of the discussion and establishment of RPJMDES in Desa Lempangang.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Village Deliberation related to the discussion and establishment of the 2025 RPJMDES in Desa Lempangang is an integral part of the democratic and participatory village governance system. This process not only aims to formulate development policies but also ensures that the needs and aspirations of the community are accommodated in the village's development plans for the next six years. Below is a discussion of some important aspects of the Village Deliberation in Desa Lempangang regarding the 2025 RPJMDES:

Community Participation

Community participation in the Village Deliberation concerning the discussion and establishment of the 2025 RPJMDES in Desa Lempangang is a key element in the participatory and inclusive decision-making process. Community participation ensures that the development plans formulated align with the needs and aspirations of the village residents (Afrianti, 2024).



Figure 2. *Community Participation in the Deliberation*

As seen in the figure above, the community of Desa Lempangang shows a high level of participation in the Village Deliberation. Villagers from various backgrounds, such as community leaders, youth, women's representatives, and other groups, attended the deliberation to provide

views and suggestions regarding village development. This attendance indicates that the community cares deeply about the development of their village and feels that their voices are important in determining village policies. However, despite the high attendance in the deliberation, the quality of participation can still be improved, especially in terms of understanding the technical aspects of development planning.

Additionally, based on observations and interviews, the level of community participation in Desa Lempangang is quite high. The community actively follows the deliberation process, proposes suggestions, and contributes to discussions. This indicates that the community is concerned about the direction of their village's development. However, despite good participation, there are some identified challenges, such as the limited understanding of the technical aspects of planning. Therefore, further efforts from the village government are needed to provide more comprehensive socialization so that the community can engage more substantially in decision-making.

Role of the Village Government and Village Consultative Body (BPD)



Figure 2. Village Government of Lempangang and BPD

The village government, particularly the village head, plays a central role in facilitating the Village Deliberation. The village head acts as the chair of the deliberation, while the BPD has a supervisory and balancing role in the process of formulating the RPJMDES. The research results show that communication between the village government and the BPD is good, although there are some differences of opinion regarding development priorities. The BPD in Desa Lempangang also plays an important role in bridging community aspirations with the policies that will be

implemented. They actively participate in the deliberation and provide constructive input on the suggestions from the community (Rena, 2022).

Decision Making Process

Decision making in the Village Deliberation is done deliberatively, considering inputs from the community, village government, and other related parties (Khadijah et al., 2023). One important aspect discussed is the priority of village development, including infrastructure development, improvement of education and health services, and community economic empowerment. In this deliberation, the prioritization process is conducted through consensus, reflecting the spirit of democracy at the village level. However, several obstacles arise in the decision-making process, such as limited funding, which forces the village government to be more selective in choosing priority programs. This often becomes a source of debate in the deliberation, especially when community aspirations clash with the reality of the village's budget capacity.

Synchronization with National and Regional Programs

The RPJMDES must align with broader development programs, such as the Regional Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD) and national government programs (Aprilia & Suharno, 2023). In the Village Deliberation in Desa Lempangang, the village government strives to align the RPJMDES with national development priorities, particularly those related to self-reliant villages and food security programs. This process is crucial to ensure that village development plans are not only relevant to local needs but also support the national development agenda. Synchronization is also important to ensure that the village can effectively utilize various assistance and programs from regional and national governments. The village government needs to conduct in-depth studies so that the RPJMDES can accommodate external programs that may provide significant benefits to the community (Ratnawati et al., 2021).

Challenges in RPJMDES Implementation

Several challenges are faced in the process of formulating the RPJMDES in Desa Lempangang, including: (1) Resource limitations, the village faces resource constraints, both in terms of budget and expert personnel who can assist in formulating development programs; (2) Coordination among parties, although coordination is generally good, there are cases where differences in views between the village government, bpd, and the community hinder the decision-

making process; and (3) Flexibility in planning, the rpjmdes is medium-term, so the challenge is to maintain flexibility in this plan to ensure it remains relevant to changes in social, economic, and environmental conditions over the next six years.

Recommendations for Improving the Village Deliberation Quality

To improve the effectiveness of the village deliberation regarding the rpjmdes in the future, several recommendations include: (1) Enhancing community capacity, through training and socialization programs, the community can gain a better understanding of the development planning process and the importance of their participation; (2) Strengthening synergy between village institutions, the village government and bpd need to enhance synergy in developing and implementing village development programs so that all parties have a shared vision; and (3) Optimizing resource utilization, the village needs to explore and utilize local resources more optimally, including leveraging technology and innovation to support development. Overall, the Village Deliberation in Desa Lempangang has successfully created a participatory dialogue forum in formulating the 2025 RPJMDES, although several challenges need to be addressed to ensure that the village development plan can proceed as expected by the community.

CONCLUSION

The Village Deliberation in Desa Lempangang for discussing and establishing the 2025 RPJMDES has been conducted with a high level of community participation. The community actively engaged in the deliberation process, providing suggestions and contributing to discussions, demonstrating a growing awareness and sense of ownership toward the village development. This process has empowered the community by strengthening their capacity in participatory decision-making, enhancing their knowledge about development priorities, and increasing their confidence to voice their needs and aspirations. The village government, especially the village head, together with the Village Consultative Body (BPD), played a significant role in facilitating and overseeing the deliberation process. Although there were differing views regarding development priorities, communication between the village government and BPD was effective. The decision-making process was deliberative, incorporating inputs from the community and other stakeholders. However, budget constraints posed a challenge in determining priority programs.

Additionally, the community's understanding of technical aspects of development planning still needs to be improved to enable more substantive engagement in decision-making.

To enhance the effectiveness of future Village Deliberations and further empower the community, the following recommendations are proposed: 1) Organize technical training sessions on development planning for community members to improve their capacity in understanding and contributing effectively during deliberations. 2) Establish a collaborative technical team comprising representatives from the BPD, village officials, and community members to jointly develop, monitor, and evaluate the RPJMDES, ensuring shared ownership and improved coordination. 3) Strengthen communication channels and regular socialization programs to keep the community informed about planning progress and foster continuous engagement. 4) Optimize the utilization of local resources and explore innovative approaches to maximize development outcomes within budget constraints. It is hoped that by implementing these recommendations, the RPJMDES in Desa Lempangang will become a more effective, inclusive, and community-driven development plan that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of its people.

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