

**DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY IN THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
CONSTRUCTION OF PULAU SEMAMBU VILLAGE, INDRALAYA
UTARA DISTRICT, OGAN ILIR REGENCY**

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ABSTRACT

This research analyzes the application of deliberative democracy in the implementation of the Village Development Planning deliberations in Pulau Semambu Village, Ogan Ilir Regency. The research used a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach. Data collection techniques were carried out through interviews, observations, and literature studies. The data were analyzed using an interactive model technique and using the NVivo 12 Plus supporting software. The selection of informants was done through the purposive sampling technique and the use of the source triangulation method to measure the validity of the data. The results of the study show that deliberative democracy has not been implemented optimally due to the lack of public understanding regarding development and the *Musrenbangdes*, so it has an impact on the low participation of the people involved. In addition, budget constraints and the lack of open dialogue are also other problems that become an evaluation of the implementation of the *Musrenbangdes* that have been implemented, so that the study of village problems and needs is not carried out in depth. Overall causes the principles of deliberative democracy have not been achieved optimally prioritizing community participation. To realize a deliberative village policy formulation process, the village government can take various approaches such as involving academics to assist the *Musrenbangdes* process. The government also needs to provide space

for the widest possible community to be actively involved in the *Musrenbangdes* process through the availability of an open dialogue forum.

Keywords: *Citizen Participation, Development Planning, Deliberative Democracy, Musrenbangdes*

A. INTRODUCTION

Since the implementation of Regional Autonomy in Indonesia, the central government has given some of the authority to regions in managing their household affairs based on established regulations. In practice, regions have the right and authority to utilize, develop, and manage village potential in the context of meeting community needs (Sari & Arif, 2021). The management is also an effort to manage development at the village level.

Village development is an important pillar in accelerating national development. The acceleration of national development can be realized if each village is independently able to develop its potential to achieve community welfare. In Indonesia, the legal basis for village development is stated in the *Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014* concerning Villages. The purpose of village development is to improve the welfare and quality of life of the community, reduce poverty by meeting basic needs, build village facilities and infrastructure, develop local economic potential, and utilize natural resources and the environment sustainably.

The success of village development starts from the planning stage as the initial stage in the development process (Sugiarto & Mutiarin, 2017). In village development planning efforts, it is necessary to have the participation of the village community. This is by what is stated in the *Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014* concerning Villages, in article 68 paragraph 2e which states that village communities must participate in various activities in the village.

The success of village development cannot be separated from planning factors as the first step in the development process (Sugiarto & Mutiarin, 2017). In village development planning efforts, the participation of the village community is necessary. This is following what is stated in the *Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014* concerning Villages, in article 68 Paragraph 2e which states that in various activities in the village the community must participate.

One concept of participation that brings together policymakers and the wider community is called deliberative. While the theory that examines the deliberative process normatively is called the theory of deliberative democracy. According to Landemore (2017), deliberative democracy is a theory of democratic legitimacy that traces the authority of law and policy to the exchange of arguments among free and equal citizens. This is in line with the opinion of Habermas in Hadirman (2009), which states that deliberative democracy is a practical discourse, opinion formation, political aspirations, proceduralism, or public sovereignty as a procedure. That is, the idea of development ideally flows from the *bottom up*, because development ultimately becomes a need that must be voiced and achieved.

Several other opinions are explained by Hartz-Karp (2006), who interprets the consortium of deliberative democracy as having a practical form. Discussion is the concept of decision-making through community involvement by paying attention to relevant facts from different perspectives, broadening understanding, and critical thinking processes to solve the problems at hand. Thus, the decisions made are based on the collaboration of various aspirations, interests, and factual assessments. Deliberative democracy, which can also be interpreted as a decision-making process involving the community, has had a positive effect on social sustainability in the world (Akortor, 2012).

Hartz-Karp (2006) argues that it is necessary to redevelop democracy to build a system in which community involvement is truly encouraged in decision-making. The government acts as a mediator between policy actors. Policy actors are allowed to provide arguments to strengthen their position in presenting policy alternatives. The government acts as a facilitator to bring the voices conveyed to find a middle way as a collective agreement. Deliberative democracy strengthens the voice of the people in government policy-making by including people of all races, classes, and ages and taking into account the geographic conditions of society in deliberations that directly influence public decisions.

Hartz-Karp (2006) explains that the deliberative democratic process is determined based on synergistic factors to build a deliberative system. Three criteria must be met in a deliberative democracy according to Hartz-Karp (2006), namely:

1. Influence: *The* process must have the capacity to influence policy and decision-making;
2. Inclusion: *The* process must be inclusive in that it represents the population from various points of view and values, and pays attention to access and disclosure of information;
3. Deliberation: The process must provide open dialogue, give equal opportunities to all participants, and produce a collection of data from discussions that are considered representative.

In practice, the concept of deliberative democracy has developed and been applied in several countries. In the United States, the non-profit organization founded in 1995 under the name *America Speaks* has a mission to get people involved in public decision-making at every level of government, from municipal budgets to social security. The forum where the community participates is known as the *21st Century Town Meeting* which is held every two years (Lukensmeyer & Brigham, 2002).

The implementation of deliberative democracy also occurs in Brazil, especially in the city of Sao Paulo. In practice, the citizens of the city of Sao Paulo are involved in the planning, management, and monitoring of social policies. For example in the Public Health System through the establishment of a health council as a permanent collective organization consisting of general citizens, government and private institutions related to health, as well as other health professionals. Up to 2005, around 100,000 citizens were involved (Lukensmeyer & Brigham, 2002).

Apart from America and Brazil, deliberative democracy is applied in Indonesia, especially at the stage of development planning. Deliberative

democracy at the development planning stage is realized by the availability of a forum to absorb aspirations through the Development Planning Deliberation (*Musrenbang*). The legal basis for implementing the *Musrenbang* is stipulated in the *Undang-Undang Nomor 25 Tahun 2004* concerning the National Development Planning System. In Article 1 paragraph (21) it is explained that the *Musrenbang* is an inter-actor forum to formulate national and regional development plans. The implementation of *Musrenbang* in the reform era is carried out *bottom-up*, starting from the Village Development Planning Deliberation (*Musrenbangdes*).

However, in its implementation, the village development planning meeting is often only used as a *ceremonial* and the participation of the people involved is still low (Asyari, 2018). Based on research conducted by Rafi (2017) it was found that in the participatory planning process carried out in Renak Dungun Village, Merbau Island District, Meranti Islands Regency, the involvement of the village government was most dominant in preparing development planning. This can be seen from the village community attendance data in 2014 amounted to 7 people and in 2015 there were 9 people. Meanwhile, the attendance from the village government, sub-district government, and village institutions totaled 31 people in 2014 and 21 people in 2015. Another research was conducted by Hariyanto (2022), and based on the results of the study, it showed that community participation was still less effective in *Musrenbangdes* activities in Kelarik Village, Bunguran Utara District, Natuna Regency. According to data, out of 100 people who were invited to the *Musrenbangdes* activities, only 30 people attended and the community was mostly silent in conveying ideas because it was completely left to local community leaders.

Based on the conditions of the implementation of the *Musrenbangdes* in several villages previously, it was shown that the implementation of the *Musrenbangdes* when viewed from the study of deliberative democracy was still not optimal. Ideally, village development planning is not only the responsibility of the government as a policy maker, but also provides a way for the process of empowering rural communities as *stakeholders* who know the problems and potential of villages in their area, so they must participate in determining the dynamics of development (Kuncahyo, 2018). In addition, according to Gutmann & Thompson (2009), the deliberative democratic approach is present because of the concern for forming cooperation on the grounds of the many conflicts and moral disagreements in society. Therefore, it is important to study the implementation of the *Musrenbangdes* with a deliberative democracy approach as a strategic step that must be taken to realize democratization through the involvement of various group representatives from the community.

One of the *Musrenbangdes* studies with a deliberative democracy approach was carried out in Pulau Semambu Village, Indralaya District, Ogan Ilir Regency. The village chosen as the locus of this research is a village that has been divided since 2007 and has a population of 2,005 people with a population density of 9.54/km². In addition, this village also has a community with a high level of heterogeneity because various immigrant communities also live in the village. So that a research study is needed for the development of the Semambu Island village by paying attention to community involvement in decision-making.

Different from previous research conducted by Rafi (2017) which examined deliberation in Renak Dungun Village Development with the theory of deliberative democracy from Francisco Budi Presentman, or research conducted by (Hariyanto, 2022) which examined aspects of community participation in planning, implementation, and *Musrenbangdes* evaluation. This study focuses on the implementation of village development planning deliberations from the perspective of deliberative democracy using the Lyn Carson and Hartz Karp model. The purpose of this research is to analyze the implementation of deliberative democracy in the village development planning deliberation on Semambu Island, North Indralaya District, Ogan Ilir Regency. Theoretically, this research is expected to be useful for the village government and all *stakeholders* to make deliberative democracy a reference model in policy-making at village development planning deliberation, and practically this research is expected to be able to provide input in the management of *Musrenbangdes* in Pulau Semambu village, North Indralaya District, Ogan Ilir Regency.

The theoretical concept in this study refers to the concept of deliberative democracy theory. The deliberative democracy paradigm with a collaborative approach is based on the premise of communication unhindered among various stakeholders (Habermas in Peric et al., 2021). In practice, this approach uses the exchange of information and expert knowledge, and experience and aligns various personal interests to achieve the so-called common interest through social learning (Friedmann in Peric et al., 2021).

Conceptually, the democratic process is carried out exclusively in the form of a compromise between interests. Compromise formation rules are expected to ensure fairness of results through universal and equal suffrage, the composition of representatives of parliamentary bodies, ways of making decisions, rules of order, and so on (Habermas in Hadirman, 2009).

According to Hadirman (2009) concept, deliberative democracy is referred to as practical discourse, the formation of political opinions and aspirations, proceduralism, or popular sovereignty as a procedure. The theory of deliberative democracy does not focus on compiling a list of certain rules that indicate what people should do but on the procedures for producing policies that stem from community involvement. On the concept of deliberative democracy, The community plays an active role in the policy process. Suhr (in Gastil, 2005) describes deliberative democracy as fair and open public deliberation about the benefits of competing for political arguments.

Hartz-Karp (2006) is of the view that it is necessary to rebuild democracy to build a system in which community involvement is truly encouraged in decision-making. The government acts as a mediator between policy actors. Deliberative democratic processes need to create conditions for a sense of trust and the formation of a deliberative system is greatly facilitated by determining synergistically connected factors.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used in this study is a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach. According to Bogdan and Taylor in Pasolong (2016),

qualitative approaches are research steps that form descriptive data in the form of written and oral words based on observations of people and behavior. The qualitative research approach carried out refers to a case study approach to analyze the application of the principles of deliberative democracy in village development planning deliberations. The qualitative data used were collected through interviews, observation, documentation, and audio-visual materials. The key instrument in this research is the researcher himself. Then the data that has been collected is processed and analyzed using NVivo 12 Plus supporting software. The collection of informants was done utilizing the purposive sampling *technique* and the use of triangulation method to measure the validity of the data.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

implementation of Deliberative Democracy in the *Musrenbang* in Pulau Semambu Village is focused on assessing how deliberative the *Musrenbang* is. As an analytical tool, each indicator is used based on Hartz Karp's theory, namely influence, representation, and deliberation. The concept of deliberative democracy in the long term will go through stages in building several things, namely:

- a. Can influence policy and decision-making;
- b. Representing the population and being open to diverse values and points of view, providing equal opportunities for all participating parties; and
- c. Providing an open space for dialogue, respect for views, and access to information (Rafinzar et al., 2021).

It requires an active involvement process of all participants who have been designated as deliberation participants, not just carrying out an activity. To ensure inclusive participation, the ethnicity, age, geographic location, and socioeconomic background of the participants need to be measured, likewise with the diversity of their views. This is what can be used to determine the extent of inclusiveness in the deliberative process, and the criteria from Jannet Hartz Karp are considered to be closest to the needs of the research conducted.

The Influence of Community Aspirations in the *Musrenbangdes*

Influence in the *Musrenbangdes* is an analysis of the influence given by the aspirations of the community on the policies that will be produced in the implementation of the *Musrenbang*. Hartz-Karp (2006) argues that a process is said to be very influential if participants can influence each other and can influence policymakers through the aspirations that have been conveyed by participants.

. The deliberation process that is carried out intensively and repeatedly will result in a mature decision based on repeated reviews. Based on the results of data processing that collects data and information from various sources, the influence of community aspirations in the *Musrenbangdes* can be visualized as follows the Figure 1. Data Visualization of the Influence of Community Aspirations.

In this visualization, we can analyze that the priority of the proposed discussion of the village development planning *Musrenbangdes* based on the cumulative assessment of the community's proposals and aspirations, this was confirmed by the head of the Semambu Village Government, namely Mr. Buhori who also acts as the chairman of the *Musrenbangdes* organizing committee.

Suggestions and aspirations, as well as community ideas that are outside the agenda, are still being accommodated. Furthermore, the determination of the agenda for the discussion of the *Musrenbangdes* is determined based on the results of the minutes.

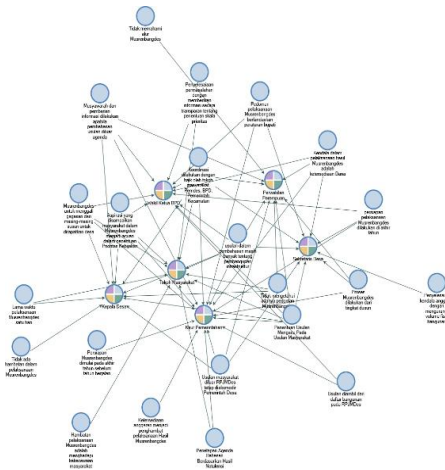


Figure 1. Data Visualization of the Influence of Community Aspirations (*Source: Results of Nvivo 12 Plus data processing*)

In addition to the process of gathering aspirations to produce accommodative policies, public understanding of the concept of development is also crucial. Based on the explanation given by the Head of the BPD and Community Leaders who are also resourced persons from women's representatives, most of the community considers new development to be limited to physical development, such as the construction of environmental roads, culverts, irrigation, schools, lighting, and others. Most of the proposals from the community in the *Musrenbangdes* refer to the physical development plan in the vicinity of the environment as a much-needed development to be built. Village communities have the view that the availability of adequate infrastructure to support all their activities is one of the main determinants of the progress of a village. The proposal regarding the physical development is based on the condition of the community, the environment, as well as the available facilities and infrastructure.

Rural transformation represents a change in many aspects, including the way people view their lives (Shaw in Fahmi et.al., 2020). Transformation in rural areas can improve the welfare of rural life at the individual and community level. This process becomes very important in the *Musrenbangdes* process because there need to be changes in village development that is not only oriented to infrastructure development without paying attention to the development of other resources. Infrastructure facilities have an important role in improving the quality of life, economic activities, and business. However, based on the results of research and observations made, the development of rural infrastructure that has been realized at this time has not been able to make a significant contribution,

because it is only in the interests of the population in certain locations and not in an integrated development plan. Meanwhile, the hope of planning activities through the process of collecting *bottom-up* is the realization of a comprehensive and integrated development design following the mapping of village potential.

In addition, budget constraints are part of the problem of the rejection of several significant community proposals that are physical development, because physical development requires a large budget, as stated by Salenussa (2019) quoting from the *Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014* also regulates the APBN as a source of village income or often referred to as village funds which are allocated from the government budget as much as 10%. Thus, the problem can be overcome by still accommodating the many aspirations through one solution, namely reducing the budget by balancing physical and non-physical development proposals. This strengthens the argument that developing guidance is needed, especially in terms of development plans in the *Musrenbangdes*, because the concept of influence in deliberative democracy has emphasized the capacity to influence the formation of certain decisions. In addition, to oversee and strengthen the plans that have been produced, the assistance of experts according to their respective fields is needed (O'Connor in Rafinzar et al., 2021). The directive must also include knowledge related to the urgency of village progress through mapping the potential of the village and available development budget sources, both from the government and budgets funded based on cooperation by other parties (Duadji & Tresiana, 2016). So that the community's understanding of the concept of development in a comprehensive manner can encourage various forms of aspirations which in the end produce accommodative and integrated policies in the village development planning meeting.

Representation of each Community Element in the *Musrenbangdes*

Criteria Inclusion is met if the *Musrenbang* implementation has participants who represent all elements who can represent all the needs of the community. The decision-making process is considered representative if a random selection is made to bring together various groups capable of producing different points of view. This diversity of perspectives from the community is the basis for achieving the best decision results Hartz-Karp (2006). This process encourages an assessment of each idea submitted, as well as examining the impact and perceived benefits of accommodating these ideas.

In line with the concept, village development planning deliberations or better known as *Musrenbangdes* are used as a forum for the preparation of national development plans and regional development plans. At the forum, the local government provides opportunities for the community to submit suggestions, questions, and criticisms of village policies (Nurmandi & Muhammad, 2015). The implementation of these principles begins with the development process itself, in this case, the implementation of the *Musrenbang*. Therefore, the *Musrenbang* involves *stakeholders* in the community. The implementation of *Musrenbang*, especially in the regions, involves the community, starting from the village level, to the district/city and provincial levels. It is the same with the implementation of the *Musrenbangdes* in Pulau Semambu village where technically the community is given the right and freedom to express their concerns and proposals to develop

the village, both from physical development to resource development. Through community involvement, it will build a point of view that the role of the community is not only as a beneficiary but also responsible for the sustainability of the dynamics of development (Hastika et al., 2022).

Community participation can be interpreted as the involvement of a group of people or the community in the form of suggestions or goods and services that will directly or indirectly influence decision-makers. Not only that, but participation is also defined as problems that exist in a group to be studied, then problem-solving is carried out by the group itself by considering the best alternative (Davidson & Elstub, 2014). Community participation is also based on people's sovereignty to implement and determine the direction of development goals, as well as elect future leaders. De Zeeuw (in Laouris & Romm, 2022) expresses his opinion regarding the availability of public space as an effort to build community involvement through collecting aspirations so that various problems can be resolved through deliberation.

Community participation can be interpreted as decision-makers suggesting groups or communities be involved in the form of delivering suggestions and opinions, goods, skills, materials, and services. Participation can also mean that groups recognize their problems, examine their options, make decisions, and solve problems (Davidson & Elstub, 2014). Community participation is inseparable from the consideration that sovereignty is in the hands of the people who carry it out through joint activities to determine the goals and future of the community and to determine the people who will hold the reins of leadership for the next term. Referring to what was said by De Zeeuw (Laouris & Romm, 2022) about involving citizen participation and providing space for collective learning in the public sphere, it is based on the need to provide public space to gather aspirations and proposals from the community which is considered as a collective voice to discuss and resolve a problem. problems by deliberation.

In addition, community participation is one of the factors of the success of regional autonomy. Regional communities, both as a unified system and as individuals, are a very important integral part of the regional government system because in principle the implementation of regional autonomy is aimed at realizing a prosperous society in the area concerned (Kahar, 2012). One of the most important things in a policy process is the existence of equal opportunities for every community to achieve a policy outcome determined in a participatory way Bolton (in Bogliacino et al., 2018). Participatory planning carried out by local governments refers to regulations set by the central government. The implementation of the *Musrenbangdes*, especially in preparing the Village Government Work Plan (RKPDes), is a quite interesting activity because it is an agenda that is carried out by local governments regularly every year, especially at the development planning stage by building community involvement.

Based on the data and information collected from research sources, the representation of each element of society in the *Musrenbangdes* can be visualized as follows:

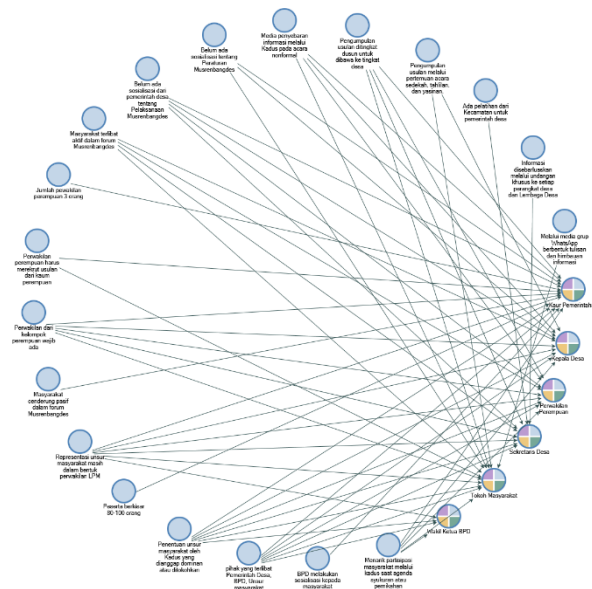


Figure 2. Visualization of Community Representation Data in *Musrenbangdes* (Source: Nvivo 12 Plus data processing results)

In the visualization of the data, it can be analyzed that the implementation of the development planning deliberation in Pulau Semambu Village involves representatives from all components of the village community, community institutions, BPD, private parties, community leaders, and others. The participation of various elements of society is also a form of social control over government administrators (Fatchuriza & Nurmandi, 2015). Mr. Purwadi one of the community leaders of Pulau Semambu Village explained that the deliberation carried out had provided as much space as possible for every element of the village community. Gathering active community participation is usually done through notifications and announcements when there are thanksgiving or wedding activities that take place among community members. Through this event, information was disseminated about the implementation of the village development planning *Musrenbang*, especially regarding the planning for the implementation of the deliberations at the hamlet level which also involved all elements of the community, including local community leaders. based on the information collected, almost all of the informants explained that related to representation also includes the element of women's representation in the village development planning *Musrenbang*.

However, based on an analysis of several documents obtained during the research process, various efforts to encourage community participation to be involved in the *Musrenbangdes* are not directly proportional to the active participation of the community in the implementation of the *Musrenbangdes*. From the data collected, the participation of every element of the community in the implementation of the Village Development Planning Meeting in Pulau Semambu Village can be seen in the following figure:

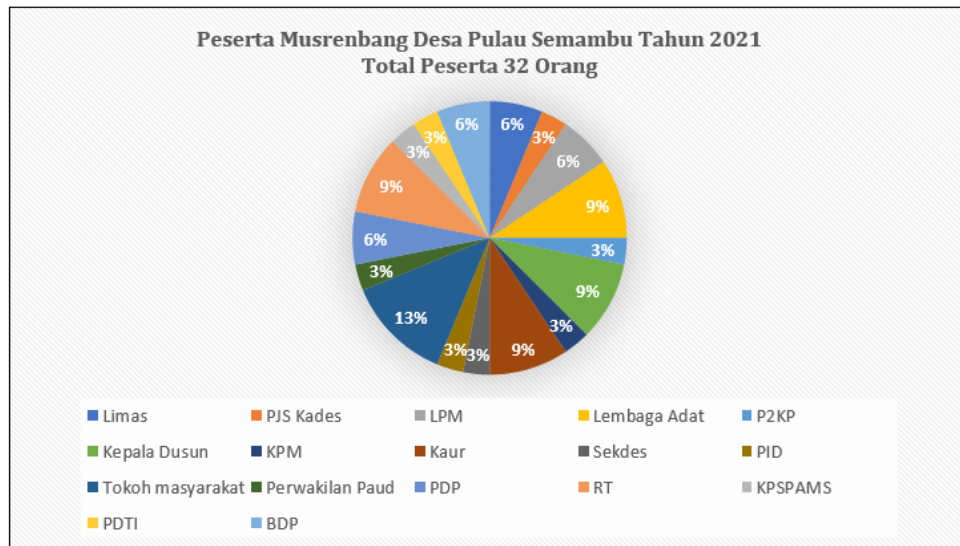


Figure 3. List of Attendance for the Semambu Island Village Conference for the Fiscal Year 2021 (Source: *Musrenbangdes Document 2021*)

Based on the picture, it can be seen that the participation of community representatives is an urgent issue to be addressed immediately. According to an explanation from the head of the organizing committee for the *Musrenbangdes*, in each RT (there are 12 RTs) as many as five representatives have been invited to realize community representation. However, if viewed based on the attendance list data listed in the 2021 Semambu Island Village *Musrenbangdes* document, the presence of RT representatives only amounted to three people. This had a very significant impact on the overall number of *Musrenbangdes* participants attending. It was noted that in the implementation of the *Musrenbangdes* in Pulau Semambu Village in 2021, the number of participants who attended from each element was only 26 people.

The lack of community participation causes the *Musrenbangdes* participants to be dominated by elements of the government or the organizers. The obstacle found is that there are people who are less active and think that the *Musrenbangdes* is a formality agenda. When analyzed based on the process of implementing the *Musrenbangdes*, people assume that this is because most of the proposals that have been voiced have not been determined as priority proposals in the implementation of the *Musrenbangdes*. In addition, the proposals that have been submitted must also be included in the queue list of priority proposals for the following year. This was confirmed directly to several informants, that the situation was a step that had to be taken due to a limited budget, as conveyed by the Village Secretary of Pulau Semambu that as much as 30% of village funds were allocated for Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) as an impact arising from Covid-19 pandemic.

The limitations of the *Musrenbangdes* in accommodating several proposals are a challenge that must be answered so that it does not have a significant impact on community participation. This effort is carried out as a form of the village

government's commitment to realizing the implementation of the village development planning meeting in a fair and non-centralized manner because ideally the community is no longer seen as an object of development, but as a subject of policy determination. As the concept presented by Hartz Karp in Aprilia (2016), the village development planning process must be inclusive, representing the population from various points of view and values. However, the reality that occurs in Pulau Semambu Village shows the low level of participation from the community.

In addition, in the implementation of village meetings on Semambu Island, there has not been any socialization regarding the rules and implementation mechanisms. This resulted in the delivery of aspirations that were outside the discussion agenda and the level of involvement of representatives of community elements was low due to the lack of information sources. Ideally, the submission of aspirations in the village development planning *Musrenbang* should refer to the Village Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMDes). The Village RPJM is an important reference because the success of village development starts from the planning stage as the initial stage in the development process. Development planning is a continuous process of determining the priority of goals in a planned and optimal allocation of resources within a certain period (Sugiarto & Mutiarin, 2017).

Based on the data and the results of interviews with several informants, it is known that the lack of understanding regarding the guidelines and the lack of information and socialization regarding the *Musrenbangdes* can reduce the quality and level of community participation in participating in *Musrenbangdes* activities. This is not in line with the concept of deliberative democracy which emphasizes the importance of deliberation as a democratic space given to the public to convey public opinion, access information, and a space for mutual respect for differences to reach a mutual agreement (Yudhartha et.al., 2022). Therefore, the village government must provide information in advance and conduct training and coaching in the process of organizing the village development planning meeting.

Availability of Deliberative Forum in *Musrenbangdes*

The stage at this stage the community is involved in the process of monitoring and controlling policies. The purpose of community participation is to realize the rights and responsibilities of the community in implementing a clean government in the village. In addition, it is also hoped that this participation will stimulate the community to carry out social control over government administrators (Fatchuriza & Nurmandi, 2015).

The existence of supervision and control of the community can certainly know the extent to which the community's policy proposals are. This two-way mechanism, both from the public channel to participate proactively in the formulation and public control of local government activities, is expected to strengthen participatory mechanisms to absorb and provide information to the public so that there is stronger and broader public empowerment.

Supervision and control of the community on the implementation of local government is very necessary to improve the professionalism, performance, and responsibility of local governments. The statutory provisions also explicitly

regulate the participation of the community as *social control* optimal this can be done through the availability of community discussion forums with open dialogue.

When viewed in the concept of human governance which views humans as an important element in inclusive village development, humans are considered as souls who are not considered as just a machine or tools but as a resource (Hanapiyah in Fatchuriza & Nurmandi, 2015). If we look at this to provide facilities for the community to be able to channel their aspirations and opinions in a discussion room, it becomes relevant to do so.

Conceptually, the availability of community forums in the *Musrenbangdes* stage is intended to analyze the extent to which an open dialogue allows participants to intensely get space to express their aspirations. One of the steps that can be taken is the existence of public space and discussion based on community groups, considering that grouping based on common interests and social backgrounds of the community can help deliberation participants to consider what are considered important aspects to be established in a public policy (Laouris & Romm, 2022).

Based on the results of data processing and information from various sources, the availability of a deliberation forum in the *Musrenbangdes* stage can be visualized as follows:

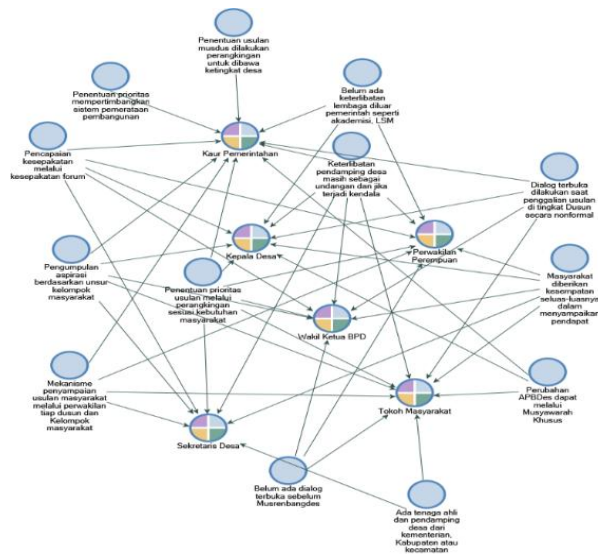


Figure 4. Forum availability in the *Musrenbangdes* stage (Source: Nvivo 12 Plus data processing results)

Based on the results of the visualization, it can be concluded that the process of exploring the aspirations of the community is carried out at deliberation at the hamlet level. The statement was validated by the Village Secretary, Head of BPD, Head of Government, and Community Leaders of Pulau Semambu Village who stated that the absorption of proposals and aspirations at the hamlet level which was carried out informally became accommodation for open dialogue. Apart from the dialogue at the hamlet level, the exploration of aspirations and proposals

carried out before the implementation of the *Musrenbangdes* still does not have other dialogue forums that are made specifically and on the agenda. This strengthens the statements of other informants who explained that the collection of community aspirations and proposals at the Village Development Planning Meeting tends to the ideas and arguments presented by representatives of community groups. This is following the guidelines on the mechanism for implementing the *Musrenbangdes*, the *Musrenbang* document is compiled in stages from the hamlet first, then proposed at the village level, until it reaches the sub-district to finally determine the proposals that need to be implemented immediately.

In the implementation of the *Musrenbangdes* in Pulau Semambu Village, this mechanism is carried out as much as possible, but several issues become important notes that must be evaluated, such as budget constraints cause the implementation of deliberation at the hamlet level to take place informally, so it has not been structured in an official forum that provides a fully democratic atmosphere. In addition, when referring to the concept of deliberative democracy, accommodative policies originate from the proposals or aspirations of the community, so the aspirations that are absorbed must be carried out by the Neighborhood Association (RT) at the lowest level, then these aspirations are forwarded in the hamlet meeting. This is done as a form of anticipating the aspirations of the community at the hamlet level deliberation that is not represented by representatives or community leaders who are present.

Meanwhile, the Head of the Semambu Island Village Government who also acts as the chief executive of the village development planning meeting explained that in addition to taking into account the available budget, the principle of equitable development is also the basis for consideration of whether or not the aspirations of the community are accommodated in deliberation forums both at the hamlet and village levels so that in the end it will be decided based on the results of ranking and priority scale at the village level *Musrenbangdes* forum. Furthermore, if there is a change in the APBDes or other agreements that have been agreed upon at the *Musrenbangdes*, a special Deliberation will be held whose results will be conveyed to the community.

The lack of dialogue forums before the *Musrenbangdes* is an important homework that must be considered. In this case, the involvement of local village experts and assistants who have been accompanying and overseeing the implementation of the *Musrenbangdes* needs to be maximized because based on the information provided by all resource persons, their involvement is only limited to conditional involvement as guests and is limited to being presented if the *Musrenbangdes* experiences certain obstacles. Maximizing the role of village experts and assistants can also be encouraged through the involvement of academics to conduct research and community service related to village potential mapping through scientific forums and discussions involving village communities, so that in addition to providing knowledge to the community regarding the urgency, potential and ideas of development, it also provides the intensity of dialogue for the community through forums that can encourage ideas and aspirations which can then be proposed at the *Musrenbangdes*.

D. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research analysis, it can be concluded that all aspects related to the main dimensions of *deliberative democracy* have not been strongly adopted in the implementation of the Musrenbangdes in Pulau Semambu Village, because several problems are still found, such as community understanding regarding development and the mechanism for implementing the *Musrenbangdes* is very minimal. , so that the quality and quantity of proposals or aspirations have not been maximized in influencing policies or decisions produced in the *Musrenbangdes*. In addition, community representation has also been given the widest opportunity, but the problem of community participation which is the main factor arises from a pessimistic feeling about the delivery of aspirations that will not be accommodated so that it influences the priority proposals in the *Musrenbangdes* determined from representatives of each element. Furthermore, the availability of open dialogue is still very minimal, mainly due to budget constraints so the implementation of deliberation at the RT level cannot be carried out officially and deliberation at the hamlet level only takes place informally. This budget constraint in turn has an impact on the number of aspirations and proposals that are accepted and rejected in the *Musrenbangdes*.

As a recommendation for decision makers, it is necessary to involve third parties in the *Musrenbangdes* process. The third party in question needs to involve academics to assist the *Musrenbangdes* process, academics are expected to be facilitators to provide various understandings and provide an overview of the ideal theoretical concept of the policy process. The government also needs to provide space for the widest possible community to be actively involved in the *Musrenbangdes* process through the availability of an open dialogue forum that can accommodate various groups and interests of the community.

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