

Sustainability-Based Public Policy for Strengthening Social Resilience

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ABSTRACT

Social resilience is an important dimension of sustainable village development because it reflects the capacity of communities and local institutions to respond to social, economic, and environmental pressures. This study examines the implementation of sustainability-based public policy in Sukamulya Village, Sukaresmi District, Garut Regency, focusing on participatory planning, village governance, community empowerment, local economic development, public services, and institutional capacity. A qualitative case study approach was employed using semi-structured interviews with three village-government informants, participatory observation, and analysis of village planning and accountability documents. Data were analyzed through data condensation, data display, and conclusion verification, supported by source and methodological triangulation. The findings indicate that sustainability-oriented policies are reflected in participatory planning, community empowerment, local economic activities, public services, and institutional strengthening. These processes create conditions that may support social capital, collective action, and adaptive capacity. Implementation remains constrained by institutional capacity, dependence on government transfers, limited sustainability-oriented monitoring and evaluation, and insufficient innovation in local economic development. The study proposes an integrated analytical framework linking Sustainable Public Policy, Collaborative Governance, Social Resilience, and Village SDGs. The findings primarily represent the village-government perspective and do not constitute a comprehensive assessment of community resilience.

Keywords: Sustainable Public Policy; Social Resilience; Collaborative Governance; Village Governance; Village SDGs.

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development requires public policies that address economic, social, institutional, and environmental dimensions simultaneously. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a global framework for achieving development that is inclusive, resilient, and sustainable (United Nations, 2015). At the local level, these principles need to be translated into policies that respond to community needs and local conditions. Villages therefore represent an important arena for implementing sustainability-oriented public policy because village governments have direct responsibilities for development planning, public services, community empowerment, and local economic development.

Social resilience is an important dimension of sustainable village development. It refers to the capacity of individuals, communities, and institutions to cope with pressures, adapt to changing conditions, and maintain or improve their capacity to respond collectively (Keck & Sakdapolrak, 2013). Social resilience should not, however, be understood as an automatic outcome of public policy. Its development depends on institutional capacity, participation, social relations, access to resources, and the ability of local actors to respond to

challenges. Sustainable public policy can therefore be viewed as one set of conditions that may contribute to resilience when supported by effective governance and community participation.

Collaborative governance provides an important perspective for understanding these processes. It emphasizes interaction, coordination, dialogue, and shared responsibility among public and non-public actors in addressing collective problems (Ansell & Gash, 2008; Emerson & Nabatchi, 2015). In village governance, collaboration can be reflected through participatory planning, village deliberations, community empowerment, institutional cooperation, and involvement in development activities. These arrangements may strengthen opportunities for collective action, although the existence of formal participation does not necessarily demonstrate substantive influence by all community groups.

Previous studies have examined sustainable development, collaborative governance, and social resilience as related but often separate concepts. Research on village governance has also frequently focused on participation, development planning, public services, or economic empowerment individually. A more integrated understanding is needed to examine how sustainability-oriented public policies are implemented through village governance and how these processes may create conditions that support social resilience. This study addresses this gap by examining the implementation of sustainability-based public policy in Sukamulya Village, Sukaresmi District, Garut Regency.

The study focuses on participatory planning, community empowerment, local economic development, public service provision, and institutional capacity. Village planning and accountability documents, including the RPJMDes, RKP Desa, APBDes, and Village Profile, are examined alongside interviews and observation. Village SDGs are used as a broader orientation for understanding the social, economic, environmental, and institutional dimensions of village development.

The study does not assume a direct causal relationship between sustainable public policy and social resilience. Instead, it examines the governance processes and institutional conditions through which sustainability-oriented policies may support participation, empowerment, collective capacity, and adaptive capacity. The analysis proposes an interpretive sequence from sustainable public policy to collaborative and participatory governance, participation and empowerment, institutional and community capacity, and conditions supporting social resilience.

Empirically, the study is based on three village-government informants: the Village Head, Village Secretary, and village government staff involved in policy implementation. Consequently, the findings primarily represent the institutional perspective of village government. They should not be interpreted as a comprehensive measurement of community-level social resilience. This limitation is important because broader assessments of participation, empowerment, and resilience require perspectives from community members and other local stakeholders.

The study contributes to the literature by integrating Sustainable Public Policy, Collaborative Governance, Social Resilience, and Village SDGs within a village-level analytical framework. Practically, it identifies policy priorities for strengthening participatory governance, institutional capacity, sustainable monitoring and evaluation, and local economic empowerment in support of more resilient village development.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Sustainable Public Policy

Sustainable public policy integrates economic, social, environmental, and institutional considerations into policy formulation and implementation. Sustainable development requires policies that address present needs while maintaining the capacity of future generations to meet their own needs (United Nations, 2015). Howlett and Ramesh (2021) emphasize that effective public policy depends not only on policy formulation but also on

implementation capacity, institutional arrangements, and the interaction between policy objectives and local conditions.

In village governance, sustainability-oriented policy can be reflected in development planning, budgeting, public services, community empowerment, and local economic development. The implementation of such policies requires consistency between planning documents, available resources, institutional capacity, and community needs.

Social Resilience

Social resilience refers to the capacity of individuals, communities, and institutions to cope with pressures, adapt to changing circumstances, and develop responses to future challenges (Keck & Sakdapolrak, 2013). Folke et al. (2021) further emphasize the importance of adaptive capacity, learning, and collective responses in dealing with complex changes.

Social resilience in villages can be associated with social capital, participation, institutional capacity, access to resources, and collective action. Sustainable public policy may create conditions that support these capacities, but resilience should not be treated as an automatic policy outcome. Its development depends on how policies are implemented and how local actors respond to social, economic, and environmental pressures.

Collaborative Governance

Collaborative governance emphasizes cooperation among government institutions, communities, and other relevant actors in addressing public problems and achieving collective goals (Ansell & Gash, 2008). Emerson and Nabatchi (2015) explain that collaborative governance involves shared motivation, institutional arrangements, interaction, and joint action.

At the village level, collaboration may occur through village deliberations, participatory development planning, community empowerment programs, and cooperation among village institutions. Such mechanisms can provide opportunities for community participation and collective action. The existence of formal participation, however, does not necessarily indicate that all groups have equal influence over policy decisions.

Sustainable Village Development and Village SDGs

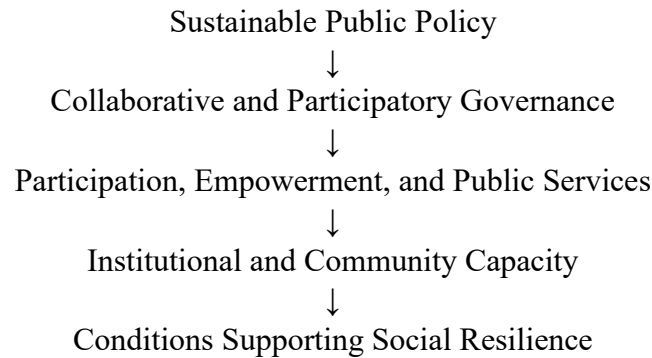
Sustainable village development translates broader sustainability principles into local development priorities. Village SDGs provide an orientation for integrating social welfare, economic development, environmental sustainability, and institutional strengthening into village development. Village governments therefore need to connect planning and budgeting with measurable development priorities and local needs.

Sustainability-oriented village governance also requires institutional capacity, transparent planning, effective public services, and community involvement. OECD (2023) highlights that effective governance depends on institutional capacity, responsiveness, and public-sector coordination. These dimensions are particularly relevant for villages where administrative resources and financial capacity may be limited.

Research Gap and Analytical Framework

Existing literature provides substantial discussion of sustainable public policy, collaborative governance, and social resilience. These concepts are often examined separately, while their interaction within village-level governance remains less explicitly explored. This study addresses the gap by examining how sustainability-oriented policies are implemented through participatory and collaborative governance arrangements and how these processes may create conditions supporting social resilience.

The analytical framework used in this study is interpretive rather than causal:



Village SDGs provide the broader social, economic, environmental, and institutional orientation. The framework does not claim that sustainable public policy directly causes social resilience. Instead, it guides analysis of the governance processes and institutional conditions through which resilience-supporting capacities may emerge.

RESEARCH METHODS

Research Approach and Design

This study employed a qualitative approach with a case study design to examine the implementation of sustainability-

based public policy in Sukamulya Village, Sukaresmi District, Garut Regency. A qualitative case study was selected because the study focuses on understanding policy implementation, governance processes, participation, empowerment, and institutional conditions within their local context (Creswell & Poth, 2018; Yin, 2018).

The study does not seek to statistically measure social resilience or establish a direct causal relationship between public policy and resilience. Instead, it examines how sustainability-oriented policies are implemented and identifies governance processes and institutional conditions that may support resilience-related capacities.

Research Site

The research was conducted in Sukamulya Village, Sukaresmi District, Garut Regency, West Java, Indonesia. The village was selected because its development planning and governance activities provide a relevant context for examining sustainability-oriented public policy at the village level. The analysis focuses on village planning, budgeting, community empowerment, public services, local economic development, and institutional capacity.

Informants and Sampling

Informants were selected purposively based on their direct involvement and knowledge of village governance and policy implementation (Patton, 2015). Three village-government informants participated: the Village Head, Village Secretary, and village government staff involved in development and administrative implementation.

The limited number of informants represents an important methodological boundary. The study therefore presents findings primarily from the institutional perspective of village government rather than claiming to represent the experiences of the entire community. Adequacy of the data was assessed through consistency

across interviews, observation, and documentary evidence rather than through claims of comprehensive theoretical saturation.

Data Collection

Data were collected through semi-structured interviews, participatory observation, and document analysis. Interviews focused on village development planning, community participation, empowerment, public services, local economic development, institutional capacity, implementation constraints, and sustainability-oriented policies.

Observation was used to understand village governance practices and implementation processes in their local setting. Documentary analysis examined relevant village planning and accountability documents, including the RPJMDes, RKP Desa, APBDes, Village Profile, and relevant village regulations. These documents were used to compare formal policy objectives and planning arrangements with information obtained through interviews and observation.

Data Analysis

Data analysis followed the stages of data condensation, data display, and conclusion verification (Miles et al., 2014). Interview and observation data were initially coded according to the main analytical concepts: sustainable public policy, collaborative governance, participation, empowerment, public services, institutional capacity, and social resilience.

Related codes were subsequently grouped into broader themes concerning policy implementation, participatory governance, local economic empowerment, institutional capacity, and conditions supporting social resilience. The analysis distinguished between relationships directly supported by empirical evidence and relationships proposed theoretically through the analytical framework.

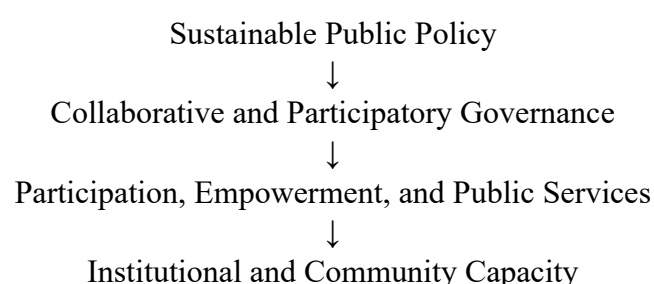
Data Trustworthiness

Credibility was strengthened through source and methodological triangulation by comparing interview findings with observation and village documents. Consistency between different sources was considered when interpreting major findings. Transferability was supported by describing the research context and institutional characteristics of the case. Dependability and confirmability were addressed by maintaining consistency between research questions, data sources, analytical categories, and interpretations (Lincoln & Guba, 1985).

The study recognizes that the absence of direct interviews with community members, women, youth, farmers, micro-enterprise actors, vulnerable households, BPD members, and other non-government stakeholders limits the assessment of community-level participation and social resilience. These groups should therefore be included in future research to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the policy's social effects.

Analytical Framework

The analysis uses the following interpretive framework:





Conditions Supporting Social Resilience

Village SDGs provide the broader orientation for social, economic, environmental, and institutional development. This framework functions as an analytical guide rather than a tested causal model. The findings therefore identify conditions and processes that may support social resilience without claiming that these processes directly produce resilience outcomes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sustainability-Based Public Policy in Village Development Planning

Sustainability-based public policy in Sukamulya Village is reflected in the integration of development planning, budgeting, public services, community empowerment, and institutional strengthening. The RPJMDes, RKP Desa, and APBDes function as the principal instruments for translating village priorities into programs and resource allocation. Village deliberation and development planning forums provide formal opportunities for the BPD, community institutions, community leaders, women's groups, youth groups, farmer groups, and other residents to communicate their needs and contribute to development priorities.

These arrangements are consistent with Collaborative Governance, particularly the importance of dialogue, shared understanding, trust, and commitment among actors (Ansell & Gash, 2008). Participatory planning also strengthens the legitimacy of development decisions because priorities are discussed through institutionalized forums. Mulyaningsih et al. (2025) emphasize that institutional capacity, human resources, regulatory support, and organizational commitment are important for effective governance innovation.

The findings, however, demonstrate the existence of formal participation mechanisms rather than equal or substantive influence among all community groups. Because the empirical evidence is primarily derived from village-government informants, the extent to which different groups actually influence final decisions cannot be comprehensively established.

Policy Implementation and Village Governance

Policy implementation connects village planning with concrete government action. In Sukamulya Village, the RPJMDes, RKP Desa, and APBDes form an integrated planning and budgeting cycle. Implementation involves the village government and community institutions, including the BPD, LPM, TP PKK, Karang Taruna, and farmer groups.

This process can be understood through Mazmanian and Sabatier's (1983) implementation perspective, which highlights policy characteristics, implementation capacity, and the broader policy environment. Van Meter and Van Horn (1975) similarly emphasize standards, resources, communication, implementing organizations, and the social and economic environment.

The findings indicate that coordination and institutional capacity are important for maintaining continuity between planning and implementation. Good governance principles are reflected in efforts toward participation, transparency, accountability, and effectiveness. Nevertheless, implementation remains constrained by dependence on government transfers, limited capacity for sustainability-oriented evaluation, and monitoring systems that tend to emphasize completion of activities rather than changes in community capacity.

These limitations suggest that sustainability requires a shift from output-oriented monitoring toward indicators that capture social, economic, institutional, and adaptive changes. Such a shift would allow village government

to assess not only whether programs are completed but also whether they strengthen long-term community capacity.

Community Participation and Conditions Supporting Social Resilience

Community participation appears through village deliberations, development planning meetings, mutual assistance, and empowerment activities. These mechanisms create channels for communication between government and citizens and provide opportunities for collective action.

Arnstein's (1969) participation framework is useful for distinguishing formal involvement from meaningful participation. Attendance in village meetings does not necessarily mean that citizens have substantial influence over decisions. The available evidence supports the existence of participation opportunities, but it does not allow a comprehensive assessment of the depth or distribution of participation across different community groups.

Mutual assistance and cooperation can be interpreted as social resources that may support resilience. Keck and Sakdapolrak (2013) conceptualize social resilience through coping, adaptive, and transformative capacities. Social networks, trust, cooperation, and collective action can provide resources for responding to social and economic pressures.

The study also identifies difficulties in involving productive-age residents who work outside the village. This suggests the need for more flexible participation mechanisms so that participation is not dependent exclusively on attendance at conventional meetings. Setiadi et al. (2025) similarly highlight the importance of participatory village leadership and communication in strengthening community involvement.

Given the limited informant base, these findings should be interpreted as evidence of institutional arrangements that may support social resilience rather than as a comprehensive measurement of community resilience.

Local Economic Empowerment and Social Resilience

Local economic empowerment represents another important dimension of sustainability-based village development. Programs in Sukamulya Village include support for agriculture, farmer groups, micro-enterprises, infrastructure, and public services. These activities provide opportunities to strengthen local livelihoods and community capacities.

The Sustainable Livelihoods perspective emphasizes the importance of human, social, natural, physical, and financial capital in maintaining livelihoods under changing conditions (Scoones, 1998). Farmer groups can function as spaces for information exchange, skills development, and economic cooperation, while micro-enterprises can contribute to livelihood diversification.

Several challenges remain, particularly limited market access, low value added in agricultural products, limited business innovation, and insufficient technology utilization. Consequently, empowerment should extend beyond assistance and training toward market development, product innovation, business management, technology adoption, and institutional networking. Collaboration with local government, universities, private actors, and community organizations could expand available resources.

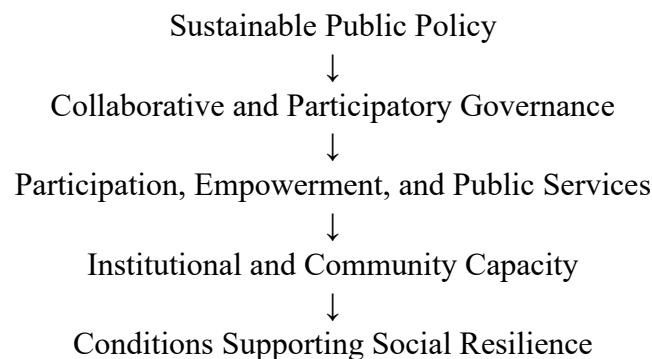
Economic empowerment may strengthen coping and adaptive capacity by improving access to livelihoods, skills, networks, and economic resources (Keck & Sakdapolrak, 2013). The study does not, however, establish

a direct long-term effect of these programs on household or community resilience because community-level outcome data were not comprehensively collected.

Integration of Sustainable Public Policy, Collaborative Governance, and Social Resilience

The findings reveal interconnected dimensions of village development. Sustainable public policy provides policy direction; collaborative governance provides mechanisms for coordination; participation and empowerment provide processes for strengthening capacity; and institutional capacity provides the foundation for sustaining implementation.

The analytical relationship can therefore be expressed as:



Collaborative Governance emphasizes dialogue, shared motivation, and collective action (Ansell & Gash, 2008; Emerson & Nabatchi, 2015). Sustainable Public Policy adds a long-term perspective by emphasizing the continuity of benefits, institutional capacity, and responsiveness to changing conditions. Social Resilience provides a framework for interpreting coping, adaptive, and transformative capacities (Keck & Sakdapolrak, 2013).

Village SDGs provide the broader orientation by connecting village development with social welfare, economic development, environmental sustainability, and institutional strengthening. The findings support the analytical usefulness of this integrated framework, but they do not demonstrate a direct causal relationship between sustainability-based public policy and social resilience. The proposed sequence should therefore be understood as an interpretive framework rather than a tested causal model.

Implementation Constraints and Policy Strengthening

Four major challenges emerge from the analysis. First, dependence on government transfers limits financial flexibility for developing locally driven programs. Second, institutional and human-resource capacity for sustainability-oriented planning, monitoring, and evaluation remains limited. Third, participation is not equally accessible to all community groups, particularly residents whose work schedules limit their involvement in formal meetings. Fourth, local economic potential requires greater innovation in value creation, market access, technology, and external partnerships.

Policy strengthening should therefore prioritize four areas: improving institutional capacity for sustainability-based planning and evaluation; developing more inclusive participation mechanisms; integrating local economic development with markets, technology, and value creation; and expanding collaboration among village government, local government, universities, private actors, and community organizations.

Overall, the findings indicate that social resilience-supporting conditions are shaped by the interaction of policy direction, governance quality, participation, economic empowerment, and institutional capacity. These relationships provide a basis for strengthening sustainability-oriented village governance while recognizing that resilience outcomes require broader and longer-term empirical assessment.

CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This study examined the implementation of sustainability-based public policy in Sukamulya Village, Sukaresmi District, Garut Regency, with particular attention to participatory planning, village governance, community empowerment, local economic development, public services, and institutional capacity.

The findings indicate that sustainability-oriented policy is reflected in the integration of the RPJMDes, RKP Desa, and APBDes, supported by village deliberation and development planning forums. Community participation, mutual assistance, empowerment activities, local economic programs, and institutional cooperation provide important conditions for strengthening collective capacity. Agricultural activities and micro-enterprises also represent potential resources for improving livelihood security and adaptive capacity.

Several implementation challenges remain. Dependence on government transfers limits financial flexibility, while institutional and human-resource capacity for sustainability-oriented monitoring and evaluation requires strengthening. Participation is not equally accessible to all groups, particularly residents whose employment keeps them outside the village during formal meetings. Local economic development also faces limitations in market access, product value creation, technology adoption, and innovation.

The study emphasizes that the relationship between sustainability-based public policy and social resilience should not be interpreted as a direct causal relationship. The empirical evidence supports an analytical sequence in which sustainable policy provides development direction, collaborative governance facilitates coordination, participation and empowerment strengthen capacity, and institutional and community capacities may create conditions that support social resilience. This framework is therefore a theoretical and analytical proposition rather than a tested causal model.

Four policy priorities are recommended. First, village governments should strengthen institutional capacity in sustainability-oriented planning, monitoring, and evaluation. Second, participation mechanisms should become more inclusive and flexible to reach groups that are underrepresented in formal forums. Third, local economic empowerment should connect production with value addition, market access, technology, and business networks. Fourth, collaboration among village government, local government, universities, private-sector actors, and community organizations should be expanded.

The study contributes conceptually by bringing together Sustainable Public Policy, Collaborative Governance, Social Resilience, and Village SDGs within a village-level analytical framework. Its main limitation is the reliance on three village-government informants. The findings consequently represent an institutional perspective and cannot be considered a comprehensive assessment of community social resilience. Future research should incorporate community members, women, youth, farmers, micro-enterprise actors, vulnerable households, BPD members, and other stakeholders. Comparative and longitudinal studies are also needed to examine whether the identified governance processes are associated with sustained improvements in community resilience.

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