



DEMOCRACY AND LOCAL WISDOM IN VILLAGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: CRISIS TRANSFORMATION

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ABSTRACT

The democracy that occurs today is considered by the community as a procedural democracy which is seen in fact as the meaning of democracy is often only a tool for the interests of certain groups which are far from the rules of local wisdom which are full of life philosophy in building an ideal village community. The purpose of this study is to analyze the transformation of democracy and local wisdom in the development of rural communities during the crisis. This study uses a systematic literature review approach with the PRISMA method. Based on the screening results, 25 articles were extracted 4 times and then downloaded from each database. The results of the literature review show that local wisdom is wisdom that is passed down from generation to generation, sourced from a combination of knowledge and experience in certain locations. Then it becomes a collective idea in society in the form of knowledge, belief, understanding, or insight as well as customs or norms, local wisdom guides human behavior in the life of the community environment. The real form of the transformation of democracy and local wisdom can be seen through changes in the character of local communities that are adaptive, participatory, transparent, accountable and uphold the culture of gotong royong in a pluralistic life order so that there is greater public acceptance according to the nature of democracy which is the system chosen to embrace all parties.

Keywords: Democracy, Local Wisdom, Village Community Development, Crisis Transformation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Democracy undoubtedly plays a critical role in community development changes, especially among village communities. Among the crucial programs involving the government and the community is village development, given that the village is the source and smallest unit that supports the country's national defense [1]. From a sociocultural perspective, a village is a place where a community in a certain geographic location lives together and knows each other well. Villages tend to exhibit a homogeneous community that fulfills their needs directly from nature. Furthermore, villages are often associated with the agricultural community and age-based work division due to most village people's humble and practical mindset that emphasizes the social and traditional values [2].

In Indonesia, the village system serves as the embryo of the country's government and political system. Villages' social form (e.g., indigenous / village communities) has long become an institution with their respective crucial, autonomous system [3]. The village constitutes an institution with an autonomous system with its own tradition, rules, and law and tends to be independent, as defined by Law no. 6 of 2014 on Village, the Home

Affair Minister, and Village Affair Minister Regulations, emphasizing the democratic principle along with local wisdom and community participation [4]–[6].

In order to achieve a successful village development, it is necessary to involve the local community during the planning, execution, and evaluation processes since they know their villages' development problems and needs [7]. Along with the autonomous village development, it is also necessary to internalize democratic values in its process. Democracy denotes a set of political activities that develop continuously according to the condition. It should be noted that democracy represents an effort to encourage people's participation in the monitoring, voting, and policy-making process around them, which results in a positive connection between the responsive government and the active community.

The village community demands democracy as they believe that every individual holds equal rights to determine their goals. Participatory democracy can work well in an environment where information moves freely. In a participatory democratic system, individuals

tend to take the initiative to put efforts into develop various programs on resources and problem-solving skills [8].

Today’s democracy, however, is viewed as a procedural democracy, which serves as merely a tool for certain groups’ interests that are far from the community’s local wisdom. This condition leads to value crises as the people’s local wisdom is neglected. For example, previous research which states that culture value that are practiced have experienced a shift in value. Value shift demonstrates that modernization tends to cause value crises [9]. In this regard, we attempt to analyze the transformation of democracy and

local wisdom in the village community development during the crisis.

2. METHOD

The present study was categorized as a literature review, A research method aiming to collect and extract knowledge from previous studies and analyze experts’ views on the previous studies. Applying the PRISMA method, this review comprises several stages: defining the criteria, defining sources of information, selecting the literature, collecting data, and analyzing the data from relevant journal articles, books, documents, and other sources of information. The procedure of this study is presented in figure

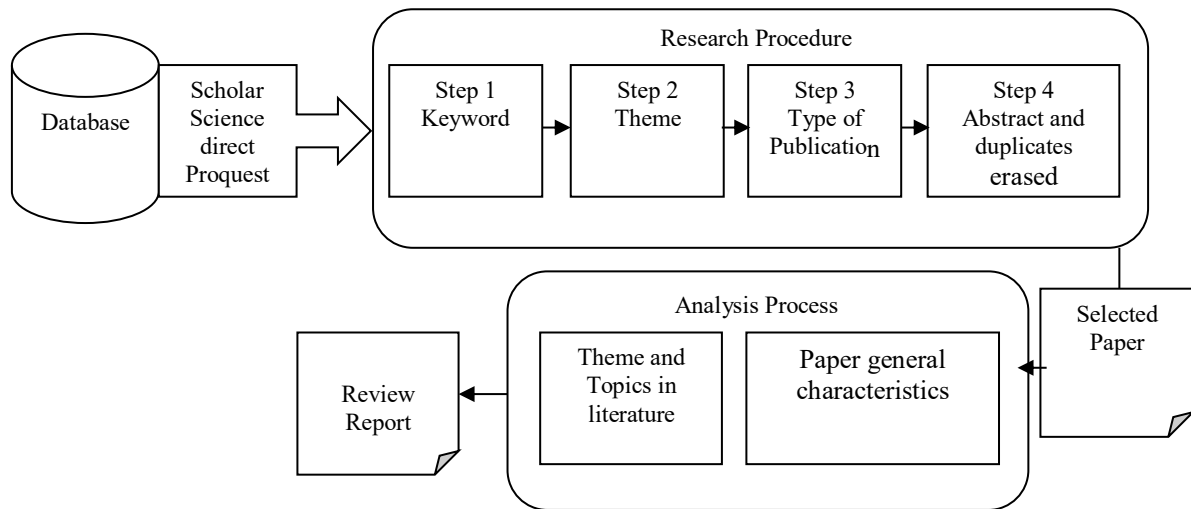


Figure 1. Research Procedure.

As shown in figure 1, the data were collected from three databases, namely Google Scholar, Science Direct, and ProQuest, three widely known databases in the field of social science. The obtained data were extracted four times. In the first extraction step, two keywords (i.e., democracy and local wisdom) were applied to obtain the broadest possible results. In the second step, the search was limited to the village community development during a crisis. In the third step, the obtained data were distinguished based on the research type (i.e., research and review article). Lastly, the data were extracted by seeing the abstract and analyzing the research purposes. Using these four steps, several relevant articles were selected for review. Data extraction steps are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Data extraction

Step	Scholar	Science direct	ProQuest	Total
Step 1 Democracy and Local Wisdom.	2320	3486	3962	9768
Step 2 Themes (Village Community Development, Crisis	151	332	345	828

	Transformation)				
Step 3 Type (Review and Research article)	56	103	98	257	
Step 4 Abstract Duplicate	3	14	8	25	

Twenty-five articles were extracted four times and downloaded from each respective database. These articles were extracted and analyzed to obtain potential findings to depict the transformation of democracy and local wisdom in village community development during crises.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Village community development during the crisis is often associated with changes in democracy, in which the state and civil society are inseparable elements of village government. Democracy in village community development during the crises plays a pivotal role as it upholds the local wisdom. Local values are known to be able to unite people in the modern democratic era. In this regard, collaboration is highly necessary to enforce

and achieve the goal of decentralization. Collaboration can be established through the provision of opportunities to the local people. Policy is the most tangible realization in the process of providing opportunities for local communities to develop.

Twenty-five articles published between 2018 and 2022 were extracted systematically four times, resulting in article samples for analysis based on themes.

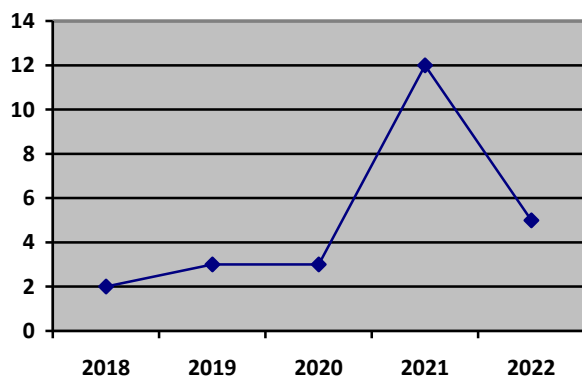


Figure 2 Year of Publication.

As shown in Figure 2, studies on democracy and local wisdom within the village community development during a crisis, 25 selected sample articles are mostly published in 2021 (n=12), followed by those published in 2022 (n=5), 2019, and 2020 (n=3, respectively), and 2018 (n=2)

Five review articles were written by multiple authors, resulting in complex views on democracy and local wisdom within the village community development during a crisis. The number of authors in the reviewed articles mostly ranges from one to three. This implies that an article is ideally authored by no more than three writers. However, the writers’ contributions in articles with more than three authors are also taken into account in our analysis. The number of authors of the reviewed articles (n=25) is displayed in table 2.

Table 2. Articles were extracted

N of author	Paper	%
1	10	40
2	7	28
3	7	28
4	1	4
Total	25	100

The next stage was to analyze the topic and theme of each selected article.

Twenty-five articles on the transformation of democracy and local wisdom within the village community development during the crisis were selected. It was found that the procedural democratic

practices (i.e., the direct election and indirect policy-making process) are not in line with the deliberative democratic practices, which are characterized by indirect election. In this regard, democratic practices are mostly done in the form of representative democracy and ignore local values. At the same time, the policies should shift the orientation of economic development and involve all conflicting parties to have a discussion and reach an agreement, a constructive conflict resolution [10].

Democratic life is a must when it comes to achieving common welfare. Countries worldwide have been applying a range of democratic values while examining the urgency of democratic life in society. Any problems that arise are discussed to find a solution, and any crucial decision is made after a discussion, thus minimizing potential conflicts among the members of society [11],[12]. One of the reviewed papers reports that 134 countries between 2007 and 2016 show that democracy is not necessarily clean. It was also found that the government is driven by socioeconomic and political globalization [13]. Other articles measuring democracy, development, globalization, and their supporting factors in 137 countries between 1970 and 2012 also report inconsistent findings on the fact that democracy is a cleaner system [14]. This study suggests that two main dimensions of democracy, i.e., contestation and inclusivity/participation, negatively affect inequality [15]. Democratic culture plays a pivotal role in a country's life. It serves as social control that comes from the society for the government to prove that people hold the freedom to speak and enjoy fair governance. Democratic culture can eliminate despotism towards the community since a democratic country recognizes the law supremacy, a country whose government is driven by the community. In the past, many rulers tended to be authoritarian dictators by limiting people’s involvement due to their inability to carry out the people’s mandates [16], [17].

A culture can grow if democratic countries recognize and respect one's freedom of expression. As democracy differs over time, a question arises whether it facilitates or hampers a country's development. In this regard, democracy may function as a situational decision amid political climate changes and global community development challenges [18]–[20].

The government implementation and village development ideally, in a full term do not only cover the people’s rights. Community participation is highly necessary for the village development context to translate their interests. A good democracy in village community development should be able to empower the community and provide them with opportunities to be involved in bureaucratic processes, from the planning to the monitoring stages of public policies. The community exists to control any excessive power to ensure efficient, good governance for people’s greatest interest. A suitable institutional framework and

community involvement are likely to support development equality. Community involvement within the development planning, policy-making, and monitoring processes is known to be one of the factors supporting the achievement of effective and efficient development [21], [22].

Transformation of democracy and local wisdom in the village community development represents a local wisdom-based democratic model applied by the local government, a part of the procedural democratic principles. This begins with the modernization that tends to cause the value crisis. The value crises can be seen from the lack of family values and community collaboration. One of the reviewed articles suggests that cultural value changes cause various shocks in the community. In this regard, the transformation of local wisdom should cover the entire community's values. [9], [23].

Local wisdom is inherited through generations, stemming from a combination of experience and knowledge of certain locations. It emerges from human thoughts and is combined with other ideas, resulting in a collective view in the form of understanding, belief, insight, knowledge, norms, and tradition that guides the behaviors of the member of the community. Local wisdom is inseparable from the culture of a community. It covers all human cultural aspects, including language, technology, economy, art, education, social organization, and religious systems [2], [24]–[26]. Local wisdom stems from thought, which is then applied in life practices. As the core of local values, local wisdom is sometimes depicted through the practices and capabilities of protecting culture from foreign influences. The capability to accommodate and integrate the aspects of foreign influences constitutes the form of cultural preservation to support cultural development. Local wisdom can be seen as a community's view and lifestyle [7], [8], [27].

In Indonesia, local wisdom serves as a life philosophy that exists in the middle of the community; a right life path manifested in the form of traditional rituals. From this perspective, local wisdom is the fruit of hundred years of spiritual development of interactions among individuals from the same cultural background. Local wisdom also constitutes interactions that emerge from the relationship between an individual and their surroundings. Human life can be seen as wisdom stemming from interactions between humans and the environment [25],[26]. Etymologically, wisdom refers to one's capability to use sense and thought when responding to a situation, object, or event. Meanwhile, the word local highlights an event in a certain place. Local wisdom represents a good thought of people regarding their relationship with their environment, which stems from religious values, tradition, and old sayings. This heritage should serve as a controlling instrument in community life and turn into local culture. Local wisdom is also known as local

knowledge or local genius. Equals to cultural values, local wisdom is also held as a life perspective of the community. However, the local wisdom's role in supporting the community life also changes overtime [4], [17], [29].

Religion and tradition can form local wisdom. For the community, local wisdom can be found in old sayings, proverbs, books, and motto that is rooted in people's behavior in daily life. Their behaviors are observable, representing people's habits for a long time. Local wisdom should be seen as the wisdom within a traditional culture. Local wisdom can be defined as a nation's cultural identity that makes its people capable of accepting and turning foreign cultures into their own characteristics. Local wisdom, as a heritage, should be in line with the community's life values, including religious, cultural, and traditional values [24], [25].

Every village has its own culture, an asset that must be preserved. As each culture has its own characteristics, a community's local wisdom should be taken into consideration when establishing the village community democratic system. Each village's local wisdom may facilitate the formation of its own democratic characteristics. A village democratic character can be defined as a low-level democracy that applies to a specific community, followed by local wisdom that is capable of reforming the community's democratic identity. The village community can apply their noble values to model the village's democratic development. Local wisdom is believed to strengthen the village democracy due to its ability to adapt to the community's needs. When a village's local wisdom can internalize its values into a modern democracy, the village democratic system is likely to be accepted in the village's socio-political system. The village holds a strong authority to protect themselves based on their own local wisdom. They can also internalize their local values through the modern democratic practices [27].

The implementation of local wisdom in the village development is crucial as it contains the art, norms, and collectivism of the village community. The village development process should consider all members of the community aspect. The evaluation process of a policy should also refer to the noble values held by the community. By considering local wisdom in the village community development process, a strong bond is likely to emerge between the community's local values and the democratic system [30]. The community's local values can serve as a foundation of the people's power and autonomy during the transition of democracy. In this regard, the bottom-up approach that considers the community's local wisdom should be seen as an alternative policy for the local government in developing the village [31].

The implementation of local value-based democracy may affect the local governments' capacity to establish and maintain their position as a state institution in the relationship with the community. Local values may

serve as a reference to strengthen the local democracy, as the community is likely to uphold their local values in their daily life. Local values can protect the community from unexpected problems while serving as a reference in the problem-solving process. Based on the reviewed articles, it can be seen that whenever formal approaches fail to solve the problem, local values are applied as the reference [17].

It is necessary to support the local wisdom, as it can provide a foundation for the democratic process. In this regard, the government's support plays the most crucial role. To date, many local values are still implemented and held by the community. These values are often found in cultural matters that still live amid the people's dynamic changes, which can support various forms of local powers that allow people to resolve conflicts and address differences [32]. Policies close to the local people's aspirations may serve as the best decision made by the policymakers [33]. When introducing a policy, it is expected that the community can accept and implement the policy in their daily life. Thus, they can perceive contribution to the country, and their fear of communal conflict can gradually disappear [29].

4. CONCLUSION

Local wisdom is inherited through generations, stemming from human experience and knowledge of certain locations. It then transforms into a community's collective idea in the form of belief, knowledge, insight, understanding, norms, and local wisdom that guides an individuals' behavior in their social environment. The evident form of transformation of democracy and local wisdom is demonstrated through changes toward an adaptive, participatory, transparent, accountable, and collective community in a plural life, a community that is consistent with the core of democracy, i.e., a system chosen to embrace all parties.

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