

Leadership and Cultural Changes: Village Head Elections in Shaping Traditional Values, Indonesia's Case Study

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Abstract: This study assesses the implementation of Indonesian Law No. 6 of 2014 and Government Regulation No. 72 of 2005 in the context of village head elections, with a focus on the extent to which these legal frameworks facilitate democratic processes and governance at the village level. Additionally, it examines the challenges faced by rural communities in implementing policies that align with government regulations on good governance, community interests, and traditional rights. Employing a literature review and descriptive analysis, the study qualitatively measures the relevance of regulations, community participation, and changes in local values across seven case studies. Key findings reveal that the legal frameworks provide a comprehensive and inclusive structure for effective and equitable village governance. The relevance of these frameworks varies based on cultural integration, conflict resolution mechanisms, community participation, and preservation of local wisdom. Community participation in village head elections differs significantly across regions, influenced by factors such as political awareness, socioeconomic status, cultural values, and social media. The studies underscore the importance of preserving local wisdom in the electoral process to maintain cultural identity, mitigate conflicts, and secure electoral victory. These cultural changes can disrupt social structures within communities, leading to tensions and conflicts, necessitating targeted efforts to enhance political awareness, preserve local wisdom, and maintain social harmony.

Keywords: village head election, participation, cultural change, local value, village governance.

1. Introduction

A. Background

Since Indonesia entered the reform period, the process of regional autonomy has emerged in Indonesia, with various developments as currently felt. Therefore, democracy based on the value of human freedom signifies the utmost respect for the sovereignty of the people, that is, by the people, for the people, and carried out democratically based on the principles of direct, general, free, secret, honest, and fair elections. This democracy has expanded as democratization measures, societal attitudes, and democratization skills have developed. Communities can easily nominate themselves in competitive political events. Democracy is not a foreign value in Indonesian culture, and people not only have the right to vote but also to be elected, as

stipulated in the 1945 Constitution. Being elected as a member of the government is open to everyone who meets the specified requirements set by existing regulations, with the most important foundation being the values of democracy.

Democracy, or the sovereignty of the people, is the ideology embraced by the Indonesian state. There are three dimensions used in the democratic process to measure the progress of democracy in Indonesia. They are freedom, equality, and the capacity of democratic institutions [27]. The Village Head General Election, based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, is one way to exercise the sovereignty of the people or to realize a democratic state at the village level.

Village governance, as a fundamental structure within the state's governance system, has a close relationship with the community due to the presence of various groups, interests, and social issues. This indicates that if village governance functions well, it can have a significant impact on the development of various community sectors. With the enactment of Law Number 6 of 2014 and strengthened by Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 72 of 2005 concerning Villages, a new system has been created in the village head election process. The selection of local government officials through village head elections means strengthening the role of rural communities in the development of democratic life. According to Murniyat et al., dalam [36], a village is a legal community with boundaries and authorities determined by law. In the unitary state governance system of the Republic of Indonesia, villages have the authority to regulate and manage governance affairs, community interests, ancestral rights, and/or traditional rights that are recognized and respected. Long before this country was founded, villages have played a role as centers of government and political communities in Indonesia. Social structures such as villages, customary communities, and others have become very important social institutions. According to [13], the village is a relatively independent institution with its own traditions, norms, and laws. This is evidenced by its high diversity, which makes the village possibly the most tangible form of the nation. The process of

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selecting village head candidates is called "pilkades". In the context of village head elections, or "pilkades", democracy can be understood as the recognition of diversity and the political attitudes of the community parties in the democratization of the village level, according to [33]. The village head election is one of the political activities that demonstrate the democratic process in the village. However, over time, not all villages have the ability to implement policies in accordance with government regulations.

Despite the legal framework established by Law Number 6 of 2014 and Government Regulation Number 72 of 2005, which aimed to create a new system for village head elections and strengthen the role of rural communities in democratic governance, there remain challenges in ensuring effective implementation of democratic processes and policies at the village level in Indonesia. While villages are recognized as legal communities with authority over governance affairs, community interests, and traditional rights, not all villages possess the capacity to enact policies in accordance with government regulations. This raises questions about the efficacy of the current village governance structures and the extent to which village head elections truly reflect and promote democratic principles in rural communities. This forms the basis of this small research. The result of this research is expected to contribute in making a better process of village head election in the aspect of democracy, accountability, and legitimacy of village government.

B. Objectives

This small research is aimed to: (i) assess the implementation of Law Number 6 of 2014 and Government Regulation Number 72 of 2005 in the context of village head elections, focusing on the extent to which these legal frameworks have facilitated effective democratic processes and governance at the village level, and (ii) examine the challenges and barriers faced by rural communities in Indonesia in implementing policies and practices in accordance with government regulations, particularly regarding good governance, community interests, and traditional rights, as stipulated by the legal framework governing village governance.

2. Methodology

The constructivist paradigm is employed in this research, emphasizing a deep understanding of the interactions among political actors in the context of simultaneous village head elections. This approach views political reality as a social construct shaped through shared interpretations. The aim of this approach is to uncover political dynamics involving interests, perceptions, and interactions among voters, village head candidates, and relevant institutions.

This study is descriptive and analytical, focusing on explaining and analyzing the political dynamics occurring during the village head election process [30]. This method enables researchers to identify components influencing political dynamics and their impact on election outcomes. The conceptual framework and complexity of simultaneous village head elections are central to this study.

Related to first objective, this research is aligned with the constructivist paradigm used in the study, as it emphasizes understanding the interactions among political actors (voters, candidates, relevant institutions) and the social construction of political reality. By employing a descriptive and analytical approach ([30] and [44]), the research aims to uncover how these interactions influence the implementation of legal frameworks and shape democratic processes in village head elections. For the second objective, this research relates to the study's focus on uncovering political dynamics involving interests, perceptions, and interactions among various stakeholders in village head elections. By employing the constructivist paradigm ([25], [8] and [18]), the study seeks to identify and analyze the challenges and barriers faced by rural communities in implementing policies aligned with government regulations, particularly within the context of village governance and the election process.

3. Literature Review

A. Political Dynamic

Susanti and Anandha [45], in the research entitled "The Dynamics of Local Democracy on Simultaneous Election in Semarang District" stated that political dynamics are closely related to issues of participation and democracy. Although the topic of participation has been debated for a long time, it remains a problem, partly due to biased interpretations. When participation is understood to involve implementation of national policies, the media offered are only bureaucratic media and planning mechanisms, aspiration collection, and so on. On one hand, researchers witness the fragility of participatory media to be managed in the context of democratizing governance systems, and on the other hand, researchers acknowledge the cultural capacity of communities to participate in society. There is no time to be evaluated in public.

Dynamics are behaviors that directly influence other members reciprocally. Dynamics imply the presence of interaction and interdependence between members of one group with members of another group reciprocally and between members and the group as a whole. Dynamics are facts or concepts which refer to conditions of change, especially to forces (Santosa, 2004). Based on the opinion above, it can be said that the indicators in political dynamics are the interaction and interdependence between members of groups reciprocally and between one group with another.

According to [1], political dynamics can be interpreted as a depiction of the extent to which the ongoing political process reflects the values of democracy and accountability [1]. Political dynamics are closely related to issues of participation and democracy. The issue of participation has long been discussed but remains problematic, partly due to biased interpretations by those in power. When participation is perceived as involvement in carrying out government agendas, the mediums provided are often bureaucratic and technocratic: bottom-up planning mechanisms, aspiration gathering, and the like [2].

B. Village Head Election

Direct elections for village heads prioritize freedom and values such as law enforcement and human rights. Direct village head elections are a democratic way to select village leaders. People can directly choose the candidates they desire with full freedom. Candidates must strive to gain support using political strategies. However, village head elections are often tainted by fraud in attempts to secure support [19].

General elections are the process of selecting individuals to fill specific political positions. These positions vary, from the president and representatives at various levels of government to the selection of village heads. In general elections, every citizen who meets the requirements established by laws and regulations has the right to vote and be elected. The general election process, as outlined in Article 1 of Law Number 15 of 2011, is a means of implementing the sovereignty of the people, conducted directly, openly, secretly, honestly, and fairly within the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution [34].

C. Political Participation

Huntington and Nelson distinguish between participations that are autonomous and participations that are mobilized or deployed by others, also referred to as democratic and independent participation, and sponsored, manipulated, and driven by the government [48]. From their viewpoint, as well as in Miriam Budiardjo's book, it is understood that even unwilling activities or actions are included in the spectrum of political participation. This is because it is very difficult to distinguish between genuinely voluntary activities and activities that are coerced, either by authorities or other groups [9]. Then, according to Surbakti, participation as an activity is not only limited to active participation but also includes passive participation. Active participation includes proposing policy suggestions, paying taxes, and voting for government leaders. Conversely, passive participation consists of activities that wait for the government, accept, and simply implement every government decision. In other words, active participation refers to activities oriented towards the political input and output processes. Additionally, there are members of society who do not fall into the categories of active or passive participation because they perceive that the existing society and political system have deviated from what they aspire to. This group is called apathetic or white group [41].

Milbrath [24] identifies four main factors that drive people to participate in political life. Firstly, individuals are motivated to participate due to incentives. Participation interest may be influenced by factors such as regularly following political discussions through mass media or informal discussions. Secondly, personal characteristics play a significant role. Individuals with strong social inclinations, who care deeply about social, political, economic, and other issues, are usually willingly involved in political activities.

On the other hand, [42], mentions two important variables that influence the level of an individual's political participation. Political awareness includes an individual's awareness of rights and obligations as a citizen, which also affects the level of

political participation. Political beliefs towards the government involve how individuals assess and appreciate the government, both in terms of policies and government implementation. Therefore, if individuals perceive that the government cannot be influenced in the political decision-making process, active participation may seem futile to them.

D. Theoretical Foundation

In analyzing the village head election process and its impact on local values, several relevant theories in political science offer valuable insights. One such theory is Political Participation Theory, as proposed by Verba and Nie in 1972 [46]. This theory explores the factors influencing individuals' participation in political activities. It suggests that socioeconomic status, political awareness, and confidence in the political system significantly affect people's likelihood to engage in political processes. Applying this theory to the village head election process can help understand why certain segments of the population actively participate while others remain passive, thereby shedding light on the broader dynamics of political engagement within the community.

Another pertinent theory is Power Theory, pioneered by Robert Dahl in 1957 [12]. This theory focuses on the distribution of power in society, emphasizing that power is not solely concentrated in the hands of elites but dispersed among various groups. Examining village head elections through the lens of power theory allows researchers to identify who holds influence, how decisions are made, and whether power dynamics reflect the interests of the broader community or specific factions within it. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for assessing the fairness and legitimacy of the election process.

Lastly, Structural Functionalism, proposed by Talcott Parsons in 1951 [32], provides a framework for analyzing how the election process contributes to the functioning and stability of the local community. This theory views society as a complex system with interrelated parts that work together to maintain order. By examining how the election process interacts with other social institutions and norms within the community, researchers can assess its impact on governance structures, social cohesion, and the preservation of local values. Overall, by applying these theories, researchers can gain a comprehensive understanding of the village head election process and its broader implications for local politics and society.

4. Results and Discussion

A. Legal Framework for the Village Head Election in Indonesia

1) The Indonesian Law No. 6 Year 2014

The principles guiding village governance in Indonesia, as outlined in Law No. 6 of 2014, encompass a comprehensive framework aimed at fostering effective and inclusive governance at the local level. These principles serve as the cornerstone for village administration, emphasizing the recognition of ancestral rights, subsidiarity, diversity, cooperation, mutual assistance, and consultation.

The recognition principle acknowledges the historical significance of villages and their inherent rights, both pre and post-independence. Subsidiarity underscores the importance of local-scale authority and decision-making, empowering village governments to innovate and address community needs autonomously. Diversity respects the plurality of value systems within villages while upholding shared national values.

Cooperation and mutual assistance highlight the necessity of collaborative efforts among various stakeholders, fostering solidarity and collective action for village development. Consultation ensures that decision-making processes are inclusive and participatory, reflecting the interests and aspirations of the village community.

Furthermore, democracy is upheld through the self-organization of village communities, promoting grassroots participation and governance. Independence emphasizes self-reliance in meeting local needs, while participation encourages active involvement of villagers in community affairs. Equality and empowerment principles advocate for fair representation, rights, and opportunities for all village constituents, aiming to enhance their well-being and quality of life.

Lastly, the sustainability principle underscores the importance of systematic and continuous planning, implementation, and monitoring of village governance processes, ensuring long-term viability and effectiveness in meeting community needs. Together, these principles form the foundation for equitable, participatory, and sustainable village governance in Indonesia.

2) *Government of Indonesia Regulation No. 72 Year 2005*

The principles governing village governance as per Government Regulation No. 72 of 2005, are crucial for guiding the administration and development of villages across Indonesia. The first principle emphasized is the diversity principle. It underscores the importance of tailoring village regulations to reflect the unique values, traditions, and customs prevalent within each village and its community. This approach recognizes the diversity among villages and aims to ensure that governance structures and policies are aligned with local contexts. Next, the principle of participation highlights the significance of community involvement in supporting the tasks and responsibilities of village governance. This principle underscores the importance of collaborative efforts between the government and the community to achieve effective governance outcomes.

The principle of original autonomy grants village

governments the authority to enact regulations specific to their needs. This autonomy enables villages to manage their affairs independently, allowing them to tailor their policies and governance structures to the unique cultural, social, and economic contexts of their communities. With this power, village governments can effectively address local issues and priorities through planning, implementation, supervision, and evaluation of governance activities and development initiatives. This decentralized approach ensures that local governance is more responsive and adaptive to the needs of the villagers, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among the local population.

Moreover, original autonomy empowers village leaders to make decisions that are most relevant to their constituents, enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of governance. This empowerment can lead to more innovative solutions to local problems, as village authorities can experiment with different approaches without being constrained by a one-size-fits-all policy framework imposed from higher levels of government.

Finally, the principle of community empowerment underscores the efforts of village governments to uplift and empower local communities. Recognizing the challenges faced by many villages, such as poverty and underdevelopment, this principle emphasizes the need to implement initiatives that enhance the welfare and well-being of community members, fostering sustainable development and progress.

B. Case Studies of Village Head Election in Indonesia

1) *Community Participation*

Three case studies were selected to analyse community participation, i.e.: (i) Community Political Participation in the Election of Village Heads in Cinta Rakyat Village, Percut Sei Tuan Subdistrict, Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra Province. The research was reported by [50]; (ii) Community Participation in the Implementation of Village Head Elections (Pilkades) in Sukamulya Village, Rumpin Subdistrict, Bogor Regency, West Java Province in 2019. The research was reported by [42]; and (iii) Phenomenological Analysis of Community Participation in Pilkades Campaigns: Case Study of Village Head Elections in Kotawaringin Barat Regency, reported by [51].

The study by [50] examines community participation in the election of village heads in Cinta Rakyat Village, Percut Sei Tuan District, Deli Serdang Regency, finding it significantly low due to a lack of political awareness, trust in the government,

Table 1
Comparison of three case studies on the level of community participation in the village head election

| No. | Case Study | Participation Level | Key Factors | Reasoning |
|-----|---|---------------------|---|--|
| 1. | Village of Cinta Rakyat, Percut Sei Tuan Sub District, Deli Serdang District (2024) | Very Low | Low political awareness, lack of trust in the government, and poor socioeconomic status | A significant lack of political awareness results in many residents being reluctant to vote in the absence of village head candidates |
| 2. | Sukamulya Village, Rumpin Sub District, Bogor District (2019) | High | Active engagement in campaigns, free expression of aspirations and suggestions, and effective community oversight of the election process | The community's conscientious voting, sufficient manpower, and resources support high participation, despite challenges like limited funding and black campaign practices. |
| 3. | Kotawaringin Barat District, Central Kalimantan Province (2024) | Complex and Varied | Influence of cultural values, expectations, personal experiences, social media, and interpersonal interactions. | A multifaceted blend of social and political dynamics, where cultural and personal factors, alongside media influence, shape community involvement in the electoral process. |

and poor socioeconomic status. Conversely, [42] investigates the 2019 village head election in Sukamulya Village, Rumpin District, Bogor Regency, revealing high community activity in campaign events, voicing aspirations, and voting freely, supported by sufficient manpower and resources despite financial and procedural obstacles. [51] employ a phenomenological approach to study Pilkades campaigns in West Kotawaringin Regency, showing that participation is shaped by a complex interplay of political factors, cultural values, expectations, personal experiences, and the significant influence of social media and interpersonal interactions on voter perceptions and preferences. A structured review on three case studies related to level of participation, key factors and reason for the level of participation is presented in Table 1.

As can be seen in the table 1, community participation in village head elections varies significantly across different regions due to distinct influencing factors. In Cinta Rakyat Village, low participation is primarily attributed to a severe lack of political awareness among residents, who do not understand the importance of their votes and lack trust in governmental processes. Conversely, Sukamulya Village experiences high participation driven by a well-informed and proactive community actively engaging in the electoral process, supported by adequate infrastructure and manpower, though somewhat hindered by financial constraints and campaign malpractices. In West Kotawaringin Regency, participation is complex and influenced by a blend of cultural values, expectations, personal experiences, and the significant role of social media and interpersonal interactions, creating a multifaceted environment where voter behavior is shaped by a broad range of factors beyond just political considerations.

The analyses of community participation in village head elections across these three studies reflect varying degrees of alignment with the objectives of Law No. 6 of 2014 and Government Regulation No. 72 of 2005. Sukamulya Village’s high participation and community oversight demonstrate effective implementation of these legal frameworks, showcasing a model of active and empowered local governance. In contrast, Cinta Rakyat Village highlights significant challenges in political awareness and trust, indicating a gap between the legal provisions and on-ground realities that need to be addressed through targeted educational

and trust-building initiatives.

In West Kotawaringin Regency, the complex and multifaceted nature of community participation underscores the importance of considering local cultural and social dynamics in implementing these laws. The significant role of social media and interpersonal interactions in shaping voter behavior suggests that legal frameworks must be adaptable and inclusive to effectively address the diverse influences on community engagement in village governance.

2) *Changing Cultural Values*

The impact of village head elections on local cultural values and community dynamics is evident across various studies. Four cases were selected to analyse changing on local value in the event of village head election, i.e.,: (i) The Impact of Village Head Elections on the Existence of Basanohi Cultural Values in Waiboga Village, Sulabessi Tengah Subdistrict, Sula Islands Regency, North Maluku Province, reported by [43]; (ii) Democracy in the village (study case of village Head Election of Batu Timbau, East Kutai District), reported by [6]; (iii) Winning Strategy for Village Head Elections Based on the Local Wisdom of Migrant Madurese in Sukadanau Village, Cikarang Barat Subdistrict, Bekasi Regency in 2018, reported by [14]; and (iv) The Impact of Village Head Elections on the Social Interaction of Buajangka Village Communities, Morowali Regency, reported by [49].

[43] highlight how in Waiboga village, the election process significantly affects the Basanohi culture, leading to discord and a loss of unity within the community due to differing choices in leadership. Conversely, [6] emphasize the importance of customary community membership and endorsement from village customary institutions in Batu Timbau village, promoting cultural preservation and ensuring elected officials uphold traditional values. [14] discuss the strategic use of Madurese local wisdom in Sukadanau Village, where candidates integrate familial and religious values to garner support, recognizing that emotional connections are paramount in Madurese communities. Meanwhile, [49] illustrate the multifaceted impact of elections on social interactions in Buajangka Village, Morowali Regency, where cooperation, accommodation, assimilation, competition, contravention, and conflict are observed. Notably, the studies collectively underscore a shift towards leveraging or preserving

Table 2
Level of changes on local value across four cases

| Low Changes | Medium Changes | Significant Changes |
|--|---|--|
| Sukadanau Village [14]: While the strategic use of Madurese local wisdom in election campaigns indicates a recognition of the importance of traditional values, the essence of familial and religious values remains largely unchanged. The approach may enhance electoral strategies but does not fundamentally alter the underlying values themselves. | Batu Timbau Village [6]: The requirement for candidates to be members of the customary community and obtain endorsement from village customary institutions signifies a medium-level change. While this maintains traditional values and ensures cultural preservation, it also introduces a formalized process that may alter the dynamics of leadership selection to some extent. Buajangka Village [49]: The impact on social interaction in Buajangka Village reflects a mix of changes, including cooperation, accommodation, assimilation, competition, contravention, and conflict. While these changes demonstrate shifts in community dynamics, they may not necessarily represent a direct alteration of core local values/wisdom but rather adaptations in response to electoral outcomes and evolving social dynamics. | Waiboga Village [43]: The impact on the Basanohi culture is significant, leading to a loss of unity and togetherness within the community. The discord caused by differing choices in leadership indicates a substantial deviation from traditional values, affecting the very fabric of community cohesion and cultural identity. |

Table 3
Analysis of relevance towards applicable regulations

| No. | Case Study | Law 6 Year 2014 | Government Regulation 72 Year 2005 |
|-----|-------------------------|---|--|
| 1. | Sukadanau Village [14] | The strategic use of local wisdom and the emphasis on family and religious values in election strategies reflect the law's focus on leveraging local wisdom for community cohesion and development. | The approach of engaging the community through local wisdom highlights the regulation's emphasis on community involvement in decision-making processes and the role of local values in governance. |
| 2. | Batu Timbau Village [6] | The requirement for candidates to be members of the customary community with endorsements from customary institutions aligns with the law's emphasis on preserving cultural heritage and involving local wisdom in governance. | The adoption of rural democratic systems with adapt characteristics aligns with the regulation's provisions on village governance and the integration of customary practices. |
| 3. | Buajangka Village [49] | The study's findings on the varied impacts of village head elections on social interactions, including cooperation, competition, and conflict, illustrate the law's challenges in ensuring social harmony and effective governance. | The emphasis on arbitration, mediation, and tolerance aligns with the regulation's focus on conflict resolution mechanisms and maintaining social order within the village community. |
| 4. | Waiboga Village [43] | The study highlights the detrimental impact of village head elections on the Basanohi culture, reflecting challenges in maintaining cultural preservation, which are key aspects of the law. The community's lack of awareness of Basanohi culture underscores the need for stronger efforts to preserve local wisdom as mandated by the law. | The study shows the importance of community leaders and traditional leaders in mitigating conflicts arising from elections, aligning with the regulation's emphasis on conflict resolution and the role of customary institutions in maintaining social order. |

local values and wisdom in the context of village head elections, whether to mitigate conflicts, reinforce cultural identity, or secure electoral victory.

Across those four cases, changing in the traditional value can be categorized as low, medium, and significant, as presented in Table 2.

The categorization of changes in local values/wisdom considers several key criteria: the magnitude of impact, assessing the depth of influence on traditional values and cultural identity; the extent of deviation from longstanding practices or beliefs; the impact on community cohesion and unity; the formalization of electoral processes, which may institutionalize new norms; and the balance between adaptation to new circumstances and preservation of core values.

Changes in cultural values during village head elections can disrupt the equilibrium of social structures within a community, as these values often underpin norms, roles, and patterns of interaction. In the context of Talcott Parsons' Structural Functional theory [32], cultural values serve as integrative mechanisms that help maintain social order and cohesion. Significant deviations from these values may challenge established power dynamics and social hierarchies, leading to tensions or conflicts within the community. For example, if electoral processes prioritize individual interests over communal values or if candidates promote divergent cultural narratives, it can create divisions and fractures within the social fabric. This disruption can result in a temporary imbalance in the social structure as the community grapples with the implications of these cultural shifts.

To restore balance to the social structure in the aftermath of cultural changes during village head elections, communities may adopt various strategies informed by Parsons' theory [32]. Firstly, adaptation becomes essential as communities seek to reconcile new cultural realities with existing social structures. This adaptation may involve renegotiating social roles and norms to accommodate evolving values while preserving core cultural identity. Additionally, proactive conflict resolution mechanisms are crucial to addressing tensions arising from cultural divergence. Community members may engage in dialogue, mediation, or consensus-building processes to reconcile differences and restore social harmony. By addressing

underlying conflicts and grievances, communities can work towards rebuilding trust and cohesion.

C. Relevance to the Applicable Regulations

Indonesian Law No. 6 of 2014 on Villages aims to enhance village autonomy and self-governance, encourage community participation in village development, preserve and promote local wisdom and cultural values, and ensure social harmony and equitable development. Complementing this, Indonesian Government Regulation No. 72 of 2005 provides detailed guidelines on village administration and governance structures, defines the roles and responsibilities of village officials, outlines processes for community involvement in decision-making, and establishes mechanisms for conflict resolution and maintaining social order. Together, these legal frameworks support the sustainable and culturally respectful development of village communities in Indonesia.

The relevancy of the case studies to Law No. 6 of 2014 and Government Regulation No. 72 of 2005 is influenced by several factors. Cultural integration, or the degree to which village governance respects and incorporates local cultural values, enhances relevance when integration is high. The presence and effectiveness of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms align with the regulations' emphasis on maintaining social order and resolving disputes, further increasing relevance. Community participation in electoral and governance processes is crucial, as it directly supports the regulations' goals of enhancing village autonomy and fostering participatory governance. Finally, efforts to preserve and promote local wisdom and cultural values, as discussed in the studies, reflect the objectives of these regulations, making the case studies more pertinent to the legal frameworks. In summary, all four case studies demonstrate varying degrees of relevance to Law No. 6 of 2014 and Government Regulation No. 72 of 2005, with factors such as cultural integration, conflict resolution mechanisms, community participation, and preservation of local wisdom playing crucial roles in determining the level of relevancy. Analytical results of these law and government regulation towards four case studies are presented in Table 3.

5. Conclusion

The legal frameworks outlined in Indonesian Law No. 6 of 2014 and Government Regulation No. 72 of 2005 provide a comprehensive and inclusive structure for effective and equitable village governance. These frameworks prioritize principles such as recognition of ancestral rights, subsidiarity, diversity, cooperation, mutual assistance, consultation, participation, original autonomy, democratization, and community empowerment. By emphasizing community involvement, autonomy, and empowerment, they aim to foster sustainable development, democracy, and well-being in villages. Community participation in village head elections varies significantly across regions, influenced by factors such as political awareness, socioeconomic status, cultural values, and the role of social media. While some communities exhibit high levels of engagement and effective oversight, others face challenges related to trust in government and limited resources. This variability underscores the importance of aligning community participation with the objectives of Law No. 6 of 2014 and Government Regulation No. 72 of 2005 and addressing gaps in political awareness and trust through targeted initiatives.

The impact of village head elections on local cultural values varies, with some cases showing minimal changes and others experiencing significant deviations from traditional values. Recognizing and preserving local wisdom during the electoral process is crucial to maintaining cultural identity, mitigating conflicts, and securing electoral victory. These cultural shifts can disrupt social structures, leading to tensions and conflicts. Communities may need to adapt to new cultural realities while engaging in conflict resolution processes to maintain social cohesion and harmony. Analyzing case studies in relation to these legal frameworks provides valuable insights into the complexities of village governance and the importance of integrating local values and community participation into decision-making processes.

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