

Impact of Innovation in Community and Village Empowerment in Langkat District, Indonesia

Arifana Arifana^{1*}, Oman Sukmana², Vina Salviana Darvina Soedarwo³

¹Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Muhammadiyah Malang, Malang, Indonesia

^{2,3}Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Muhammadiyah Malang, Malang, Indonesia

Abstract: This research was conducted with the aim of analyzing the impact of innovation on community and village empowerment in Langkat District. This research is a survey study. The population of the study was 124 people and the sample size was 98 people. The results of this study lead to the following conclusions: (1) The performance of the Empowerment and Village Affairs Office of Langkat District through village arrangement programs has been running well and contributing to both society and villages. Respondents have given opinions with an average score of 3.32 for all village arrangement indicators or agree categories; (2) The performance of the Empowerment and Village Affairs Office of Langkat District through village government administration programs has been running well and has contributed to both society and villages. Respondents have given opinions with an average score of 3.36 for all village government administration indicators or agree categories; (3) The performance of the Empowerment and Village Affairs Office of Langkat District through community institution empowerment programs has been running well and contributing to both society and villages. Respondents have given opinions with an average score of 3.45 for all village community empowerment indicators or agree categories; (4) The influence of variables (a) village arrangement, (b) village government administration, (c) community institution empowerment on variable (d) innovation in empowerment is 19.0%. This indicates that technology-based innovation services and programs in community and village empowerment have had an impact on improving the quality of life and community and village development in Langkat District.

Keywords: competency-based innovation, community and village empowerment.

1. Introduction

Generally, the territory of Indonesia consists of various hamlets and rural areas. The government pays great attention to the economic development of rural areas. Rural development continues to be pursued to improve the welfare of rural communities. Through the implementation of village innovation programs, it is hoped that every village in Indonesia will become more advanced and prosperous (Nugraha, 2009). As is known, Indonesia has entered the era of globalization, where the widening gap must be prevented, as the opportunities arising from open economies can only be seized by regions, sectors, or groups that are more advanced [5]. Economic crises have emerged, leading to multi-crises that burden both society and the government, posing difficult challenges to overcome [1]

and [7]. To address the issues of community development and rural development, there needs to be a paradigm shift from growth-oriented to development-oriented paradigm, focusing on equity with the strength of the people's economy, small businesses, including small farmers, small livestock breeders, fish farmers, medium-sized enterprises, and cooperatives being given equal opportunities with large enterprises [8], [27]. Thus, small and medium-sized enterprises are not disadvantaged and can even engage in more effective and mutually beneficial partnerships [17].

In order to enhance community and rural development, the government's efforts in building communities and rural areas are through empowerment and village innovation [23]. Community empowerment is a strategy used in community development efforts to realize the capabilities and self-reliance in social, national, and state life [17]. The core understanding of community empowerment and village innovation is a strategy to realize the capabilities and self-reliance of the community, as stated in the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 66 of 2007 concerning Village Development Planning, article 5 paragraph (2) states that empowerment is an effort to realize the capabilities and self-reliance of the community in social, national, and state life [25].

Innovation is the process of conceiving and implementing an idea that has elements of novelty and usefulness. In community empowerment activities, innovation means the process of conceiving and implementing an activity by facilitators to meet the needs of the community that has elements of novelty and usefulness. Innovation carried out should not deviate from the framework but rather enrich the content and substance of the activities undertaken. According to [14], something new, whether an idea, specific product for the village [27], technological information [13], institution, behaviour, values, or practices, which is not widely known, accepted, and used and/or applied/implemented by a significant portion of the community in a particular locality [8], which can be used to promote changes in all aspects of community life for the improvement of the quality of life of every individual and all concerned members of the community. Village or community innovations aim to stimulate and develop the rural economy related to increasing productivity in terms of the quality of community resources and rural infrastructure improvement

*Corresponding author: arifana@um-tapsel.ac.id

derived from effective and targeted village fund management [5].

The goal of village innovation programs is to improve community welfare through flagship programs supported by village funds received. Effective use of village funds can serve as a trigger for accelerating rural development. Village innovation programs are created so that village funds can be absorbed and used effectively and efficiently [12]. According to [23], the general objectives of village innovation programs are as follows: (1) Encourage the occurrence of development innovations in villages so that the village funds received can improve village productivity [8], ultimately enhancing community welfare; (2) Increase the types and volumes of village development programs; (3) Improve service quality as a direct result of implemented village development.

As for the role of the Langkat District Government, North Sumatra Province, it has developed community and village empowerment patterns through the Empowerment and Village Affairs Office through the Community Empowerment Enhancement Program (PPKM), which is a revitalization of the Integrated Poverty Reduction Movement Program. In order to realize the vision and implement the mission of the Langkat Regent and Deputy Regent for the 2019-2024 period, the Empowerment and Village Affairs Office of Langkat District, which is a Regional Apparatus with the task and main duty of assisting the Regent in carrying out the government affairs in the field of community and village empowerment, which is the authority of the region and the assistance tasks given to the District. Establishing objectives that refer to mission 1, which is "Realizing community empowerment for welfare improvement." To achieve this goal, the Empowerment and Village Affairs Office of Langkat District set 4 (four) strategic targets: (1) enhancing human resource capacity [24] and village institutions for rural infrastructure development, (2) increasing the role of villages in managing natural resources and economic potential [10], (3) increasing compliance with local regulations through increased community participation [11] and [20], (4) Enhancing the role of villages/urban villages in community empowerment and infrastructure development at the village/urban village level [16].

The Empowerment and Village Affairs Office of Langkat District continually strives to improve itself in accordance with the demands of changing environmental conditions in Langkat District, in line with the demands of the community for the effectiveness of carrying out its main duties and functions in order to promote the realization of self-sufficient villages through community empowerment. The Empowerment and Village Affairs Office of Langkat District must be able to respond to the implementation of its main duties and functions through the application of appropriate, clear, and measurable accountability mechanisms. In other words, the policies implemented should be able to provide new innovations related to capacity building and the economy of rural communities [19]. Government policies are expected to provide new innovations that can bring progress to rural communities and provide innovative ideas [26] or ideas for developing community capacity, specifically in villages, as part of

government services in improving productivity for the welfare of the community [8].

Apart from the government through the Empowerment and Village Affairs Office, the responsibility for community development also lies with the village government in efforts to empower communities and villages [6]. Village government, as the front line and playing a crucial role in rural development, especially in the agricultural sector, in implementing the empowerment of the main actors that need to be empowered, namely community empowerment, needs to be well designed by involving community participation optimally. The orientation of community empowerment should assist targets in developing themselves based on participatory-established innovations oriented towards community needs [11].

Tangibly, the performance of the Empowerment and Village Affairs Office of Langkat District has been achieved for several programs, where the number of villages experiencing an increase in status based on the working targets of the Empowerment and Village Affairs Office is 10.8%, totaling 26 villages, which have developed into advanced villages, including (1) Perk. Turangi, (2) Sematar, (3) Sei Musam, (4) Ujung Bandar, (5) Blangkahan, (6) Namu Mbelin, (7) Macang, (8) Karang Rejo, (9) Banyumas, (10) Batu Malenggang, (11) Lubuk Kasih, (12) Suka Pulung, (13) Aman Damai. These achievements are summarized in the Table 1.

Table 1
Achievement of target program for community and village empowerment innovation

No.	Village Status	2020	2021	2022
1	Advance	14	20	33
2	Developing	195	196	196
3	Under Developed	30	23	11
4	Very Under Developed	1	1	0

Source: DPMD, Langkat 2022

Based on the information provided, there have been improvements in the quality of communities and villages in Langkat District, as indicated in Table 1 above. However, there are still several issues hindering the acceleration of village development, including:

1. Not all mandates of the Village Ministerial Regulation related to the priority use of village funds can be fully implemented by villages due to limited village budget.
2. Some villages do not fully align their development with the work programs of the Langkat Regent.
3. Not all villages can attract investors for development due to their relatively remote location from the city centre.

This research is conducted to determine the impact of community and village empowerment innovation in Langkat District. The research question is whether there is an influence of community and village empowerment on the improvement and welfare of communities and villages in Langkat District.

2. Research Methodology

This research is a survey study, which collects data through questionnaires distributed to research respondents [21]. Survey

Table 2
Survey instrument indicators for community and village empowerment innovation

Variable	Indicator	Item
Village Arrangement	Access to transportation	1 – 3
	Potential natural resources	4 – 6
	Socio-cultural factors	7 – 10
	Village boundary	11 – 13
	Village government facilities and public service infrastructure	14 – 16
	Area coverage	17 – 20
	Financing for village government apparatus	21 – 25
Village Government Administration	Village governance	26 – 30
	Village finances	31 – 35
	Village development	36 – 40
	Community welfare	41 – 45
	Security and order	46 – 50
Community Institution Empowerment	Development of Village-Owned Enterprises (Bumdes)	51 – 55
	Inter-village cooperation	56 – 60
	ICT-based village services	61 – 65
	Productivity improvement	66 – 70
Impact of Innovation on Empowerment	Enhancing village status	71 – 75
	Increasing community participation in village/urban village development activities	76 – 80
	Increasing community participation in ICT-based development planning	81 – 85
	Improving social welfare of the community	86 - 90
Total		85

Source: Developed based on various sources (e.g., Arfianto et al., 2014, Anwas (2014), and Nugraha (2009)

research method is used to obtain or collect information data about a large population using a relatively smaller sample. [22] stated that a survey design is a procedure where researchers conduct surveys or provide questionnaires or scales to a sample to describe the attitudes, opinions, behaviours, or characteristics of respondents. This research took place in 4 (four) villages: (1) Sematar, Bahorok Sub-district, (2) Kwala Langkat, Tanjung Pura Sub-district, (3) Palu Pakeh, Babusalam Sub-district, and (4) Palawi, Babalan Sub-district. The selection of these 4 villages is based on the representation of village development status, namely (1) advanced, (2) developing, (3) underdeveloped, (4) very underdeveloped. The research population consists of all the objects of research to be studied. The sample is a part of the number and characteristics possessed by the population (Sugiyono, 2008). Quoting this opinion, the research population in this study is a group of village officials or community groups within a village institution. From the 4 (four) villages, there are 124 village officials. Thus, the research population is 124 people. Meanwhile, the sample for this research is determined to be 98 people. Data collection in this research uses questionnaires. The research questionnaire is specifically designed according to the research objectives. The questionnaire designed in this study is a closed-ended questionnaire using Likert scale measurement, namely strongly agree (with a score of 4), agree (score 3), disagree (score 2), strongly disagree (score 1). The variables consist of (1) village arrangement program, (2) village government administration, and (3) village institution empowerment.

To obtain a valid instrument, a construction validity test is conducted. To test the validity level of the research instrument, a pilot test is conducted with several individuals outside the research sample, totalling 26 people. Descriptive statistics are used to describe the data of research variables. Through the use of descriptive statistics, the mean, median, mode, standard deviation, and variance of each variable are obtained, enabling

the description of research variables. Furthermore, to identify the tendency of each variable in this study, ideal mean scores and ideal standard deviations are used. To determine the tendency category of the data from each variable studied, a trend test is conducted.

3. Results and Discussion

This research was conducted with the aim of describing the impact of innovation on community and village empowerment in Langkat District through a Survey method. The number of respondents who served as samples in this survey was 124 people. For more details, the description of the research respondents is presented as follows:

Table 3
Description of research respondents

No.	Ages	Gender		Total
		Men	Women	
1	≥ 60	16	7	23
2	50 - 59	33	13	46
3	40 - 49	24	13	37
4	30 - 39	11	7	18
Total		84	40	124

Source: BPS (2023)²

²<https://www.bps.go.id/id>. Statistics Indonesia (Indonesian: Badan Pusat Statistik, BPS, lit. 'Central Agency of Statistics'), is a non-departmental government institute of Indonesia that is responsible for conducting statistical surveys. Its main customer is the government, but statistical data is also available to the public. Annual surveys cover areas including national and provincial socio-economics, manufacturing establishments, population and the labour force.

Based on Table 3, the age group above 60 years old consists of 23 people (18.5%), with 16 males (12.9%) and 7 females (5.6%). For the age group between 50 - 59 years old, there are 46 people (37.1%), with 33 males (26.6%) and 13 females (10.5%). Meanwhile, the age group of 40 - 49 years old consists of 37 people (29.8%), with 24 males (19.4%) and 13 females

(10.5%). For the age group between 30 - 39, there are 18 people (14.5%), with 11 males (8.9%) and 7 females (5.6%).

Furthermore, the educational level of the respondents varies from the lowest level of junior high school to Bachelor's degree (S1). The description of the education level of the respondents is presented in Table 4. Based on the educational level, the respondents are mostly educated up to the level of senior high school or equivalent, totalling 87 people (70.2%). Meanwhile, the junior high school level consists of 23 people (18.5%), the elementary school level or others consist of 7 people (5.6%), and there are 7 people (5.6%) with Bachelor's degrees.

Table 4
Respondent educational levels

No.	Education Level	Total	%
1	Bachelor Degree (S1)	7	5,6
2	Senior High School/Vocational	87	70,2
3	Junior High School	23	18,5
4	Others	7	5,6
		124	100

Source: Field survey (2023)

The data from this research are the results of a survey on the impact of innovation in community and village empowerment in Langkat Regency, sourced from 124 respondents in 4 villages, namely (1) Sematar Village, Bahorok District, (2) Kwala Langkat Village, Tanjung Pura District, (3) Palu Pakeh Village, Babuaslam District, and (4) Palawi Village, Babalan District. The selection of these 4 villages is based on the representation of village categories, namely (1) advanced villages, (2) developing villages, (3) underdeveloped villages, and (4) highly underdeveloped villages.

This survey measures the opinions of respondents regarding the implementation of programs and services of the Department of Community and Village Empowerment of Langkat Regency

in the form of innovative programs and services for communities or villages, thereby contributing to the improvement of human resource capacity, productivity [8], and the role of communities and villages in Langkat Regency. The innovative services and programs for community and village empowerment studied consist of services and programs for communities and villages, namely (1) village arrangement, (2) village government administration, and (3) village institution empowerment.

From Table 5, it can be concluded that on average, respondents' answers indicate agreement that innovation in community and village empowerment has had a significant impact on both communities and villages. This is evident from respondents' assessments of the 4 elements, the majority of which have had a positive impact. The following is a description of the average item score for each variable of community and village empowerment innovation in Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province.

A. Village Arrangement Element

Village arrangement, as regulated by Indonesian laws and regulations, aims to achieve the effectiveness of village government administration, accelerate the improvement of village community welfare, accelerate the improvement of public service quality, improve village government governance quality, and enhance village competitiveness. Village arrangement includes the formation, elimination, merger, status change, and designation of villages.

The following is the result of data analysis of the variable of community and village empowerment through village arrangement programs. Based on the data analysis results, the provision of services and innovative programs for communities and villages by the Department of Community and Village

Table 5
Description of research data

Variable	Indicator	Item
Village Arrangement	Access to transportation	3,2
	Potential natural resources	3,4
	Socio-cultural factors	3,6
	Village boundary	3,1
	Village government facilities and public service infrastructure	3,2
	Area coverage	3,7
	Financing for village government apparatus	3,1
	Average	3,32
Village Government Administration	Village governance	3,4
	Village finances	3,3
	Village development	3,5
	Community welfare	3,6
	Security and order	3,0
	Average	3,36
Community Institution Empowerment	Development of Village-Owned Enterprises (Bumdes)	3,4
	Inter-village cooperation	3,4
	ICT-based village services	3,5
	Productivity improvement	3,5
	Average	3,45
Impact of Innovation on Empowerment	Enhancing village status	3,5
	Increasing community participation in village/urban village development activities	3,2
	Increasing community participation in ICT-based development planning	3,3
	Improving social welfare of the community	3,6
Average		3,4

Source: Field survey (2023)

Empowerment of Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province greatly contributes to the community and village. Respondents have given opinions with an average of 3.32 for all village arrangement indicators or in the agreement category.

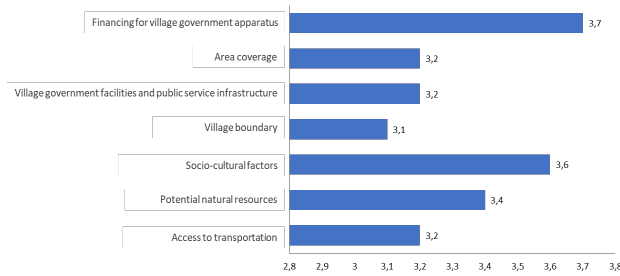


Fig. 1. Graphic on the average score of village arrangement

B. Village Administration Element

Village administration encompasses the entire process of recording data and information regarding village government administration. Managing village administration is crucial at present, considering the billions of rupiahs allocated from the government through national and regional budgets to villages. This significant financial support underscores the need for meticulous record-keeping and administration to ensure that funds are utilized effectively and transparently. The development of village administration aims to enhance the performance of village government, improve reporting quality, enhance discipline, and implement village government activities in accordance with applicable regulations and legal foundations. By developing a well-organized administrative system, village officials can better track expenditures, monitor project progress, and provide accurate reports to higher authorities, ensuring accountability and transparency. Furthermore, it facilitates easier data management for village officials, allowing for more efficient handling of day-to-day operations and long-term planning. The orderly village administration is expected to improve discipline and the quality of village governance, leading to more effective local development and improved public services for village residents.

The analysis of data on the variable of community and village empowerment through village administration programs by the Department of Community and Village Empowerment of Langkat Regency has already contributed to both the community and villages. Respondents have provided opinions with an average of 3.36 for all village administration indicators or in the agreement category.

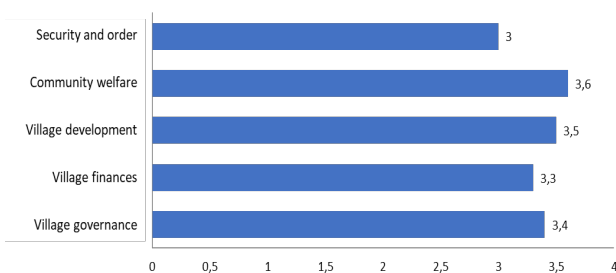


Fig. 2. Graphic on the average score of village administration element

C. Community Village Empowerment Element

Community empowerment involves advancing the ability of rural communities to independently manage their community affairs [9]. In terms of community village empowerment, the Village Law places collective agreement among all village residents as a guideline for the Village Government in managing its authority to handle village affairs. Community empowerment prioritizes community participation in decision-making processes while developing public control over the implementation of public decisions [19] and [11]. Thus, community empowerment emphasizes political primacy. Politics in community empowerment is the transformation of politics into tangible actions [9], particularly where democracy is present in daily life. Through the application of consensus democracy, every village resident has the opportunity to participate in development according to their respective contexts [7]. Consequently, democracy provides space for community members to protect and advocate for their interests.

The analysis of data on the variable of community and village empowerment through community village empowerment programs by the Department of Community and Village Empowerment of Langkat Regency has already contributed significantly to both the community and the villages. These programs have been designed to enhance the capabilities and self-sufficiency of local residents and village administrations, leading to improved social and economic outcomes. Respondents have provided opinions with an average rating of 3.45 for all community village empowerment indicators, which falls into the agreement category. This rating reflects a positive reception and general approval of the programs' effectiveness and impact. The community's feedback indicates that the empowerment initiatives are successfully addressing local needs and fostering greater community involvement and development. Overall, the data analysis underscores the importance and efficacy of these empowerment programs in driving positive change and development at the grassroots level.

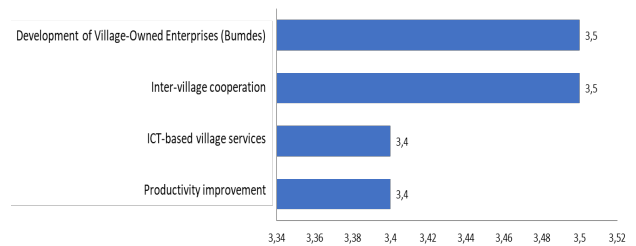


Fig. 3. Graphic on the average score of village empowerment element

D. Impact of Technology-Based Innovation in Empowerment

The main objective of the Village Innovation Program according to the Ministerial Decree of the Village Ministry of Villages No. 48 of 2018 is to promote higher quality, effective, and efficient village development through various innovative development [26] and community empowerment activities that are more responsive to the needs of rural communities. This effort aims to boost productivity and sustainable economic growth of rural communities [7] to improve social-economic welfare and village self-reliance [13].

Table 6
Correlations Antar variable

		Village Arrangement	Village Administration	Community Empowerment	Innovation Impacts
Village Arrangement	Pearson Correlation	1	,125	,167	,338**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		,167	,063	,000
	N	124	124	124	124
Village administration	Pearson Correlation	,125	1	,310**	,303**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,167		,000	,001
	N	124	124	124	124
Community Empowerment	Pearson Correlation	,167	,310**	1	,212*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,063	,000		,018
	N	124	124	124	124
Innovation Impacts	Pearson Correlation	,338**	,303**	,212*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,000	,001	,018	
	N	124	124	124	124

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

Table 7
ANOVA^a

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	5379,572	3	1793,191	9,398	,000 ^b
1 Residual	22895,871	120	190,799		
Total	28275,444	123			

a. Dependent Variable: Innovation Impacts

b. Predictors: (Constant), Community Empowerment, Village Arrangement, Village Administration

Table 8
Model Summary^b

Model	Change Statistics				
	R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	,190 ^a	9,398	3	120	,000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Community Empowerment, Village Arrangement, Village Administration

b. Dependent Variable: Innovation Impacts

The Village Innovation Program is an effort to build villages through community empowerment focused on 4 program targets, namely (1) Enhancing village status, (2) Enhancing community participation in village/neighbourhood development activities, (3) Enhancing community participation in TIK-based development planning [24] and [9], (4) Enhancing social welfare. The analysis of data on the variable of innovation in community and village empowerment by the Department of Community and Village Empowerment of Langkat Regency has already contributed to the development of higher quality, effective, and efficient villages through various development and community empowerment activities. Respondents have provided opinions with an average of 3.40 for all innovation indicators in community and village empowerment or in the agreement category.

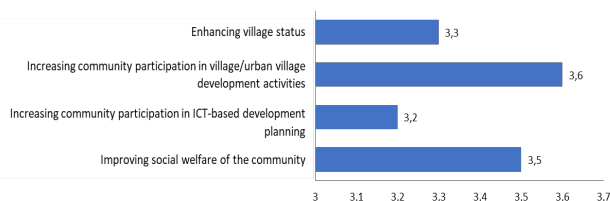


Fig. 4. Graphic on the average score of technology-based innovation in empowerment

E. Contribution of Innovation in Empowerment

Efforts to alleviate poverty and improve the welfare involve changing behaviour by encouraging rural communities to have the capacity according to their potential and needs, [9], and independent through various empowerment activities. Community empowerment and development aim to build a community structure. Empowerment is a process and a goal. As a goal, empowerment refers to the state or outcome achieved by a social change [10]; namely, an empowered community.

The following is an analysis of research data regarding the impact or contribution of each element of innovation in empowerment to the improvement and progress of communities and villages in Langkat. Based on the data analysis results as presented in Table 6, it is explained that each element of services and programs for community and village empowerment, namely: (1) village arrangement, (2) village administration, (3) community institution empowerment, has contributed to the improvement of quality of life and community and village development. The impact is depicted by the correlation values of each element, namely (1) the correlation of village arrangement element with innovation in community and village development is 0.338 or in the high correlation category, (2) the correlation of village

administration element with innovation in community and village development is 0.303 or in the high correlation category, and (3) the correlation of community institution empowerment element with innovation in community and village development is 0.212 or in the moderately high correlation category.

The combined influence of each element, namely (1) village arrangement, (2) village administration, (3) community institution empowerment on the element (4) innovation in empowerment is as shown in Table 7. Based on the Table 7, it can be concluded that there is an influence of variables (1) village arrangement, (2) village administration, (3) community institution empowerment on the variable (4) innovation in empowerment. This is evident from the calculated F value of 9.398 or a significance level (sig) of 0.000.

Based on Table 8, it can be concluded that the influence of variables (1) village arrangement, (2) village administration, (3) community institution empowerment on the variable (4) innovation in empowerment is 19.0%. This indicates that the services and innovative programs in community and village empowerment by the Department of Community and Village Empowerment of Langkat Regency have had an impact on improving the quality of life and community and village development. Based on the data analysis results in Table 8, it can be concluded that there is an influence of community and village empowerment on the improvement and welfare of the community and villages in Langkat Regency.

These findings are consistent with the research of [15] where village development programs and community empowerment greatly assist in community and village development, especially in infrastructure, availability of information and communication technology [13] networks [11], provision of safe drinking water, and road improvements. [4] emphasize the optimization of development, which is crucial for the development and progress of communities, especially at the village level, aiming to enhance community capacity for achieving independence, sustainable development, and social justice in Paluh Manan Village. [15] suggest that community empowerment in village development can create advantages resulting from the potentials inherent in the village itself. Through the development of these potentials, it is hoped that community abilities and skills can be enhanced, thereby achieving community welfare and self-reliance. According to [29], community and village development is essentially a dynamic and sustainable process from the community to the community to realize desires and aspirations for a more prosperous life, strategically avoiding the possibility of communities being marginalized as mere recipients of regional or national development efforts.

4. Conclusion

Based on the data analysis results of the research as elaborated above, this research provides the following conclusions:

- The performance of the Department of Community and Village Empowerment of Langkat Regency through village arrangement programs has been

successful and has contributed to both the community and villages. Respondents have provided opinions with an average of 3.32 for all village arrangement indicators or in the agreement category.

- The performance of the Department of Community and Village Empowerment of Langkat Regency through village administration programs has been successful and has contributed to both the community and villages. Respondents have provided opinions with an average of 3.36 for all village administration indicators or in the agreement category.
- The performance of the Department of Community and Village Empowerment of Langkat Regency through community institution empowerment programs has been successful and has contributed to both the community and villages. Respondents have provided opinions with an average of 3.45 for all community institution empowerment indicators or in the agreement category.
- The influence of variables (1) village arrangement, (2) village administration, (3) community institution empowerment on the variable (4) innovation in empowerment is 19.0%. This indicates that the services and innovative programs in community and village empowerment by the Department of Community and Village Empowerment of Langkat Regency have had an impact on improving the quality of life and community and village development in Langkat Regency.

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