

# Indigenous Value Strategy for Independent and Sustainable Village Development

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## Abstract

*Indonesia is a country that has various tribes and different customs. Each tribe and custom has its own characteristics in various regions. One of the areas is South Sulawesi, especially in the village of Takalar Regency. As an effort to develop the village, it is important to look at the indigenous values that exist in the village. Takalar Regency has 124 villages in various sub-districts and is one of the districts that has a variety of cultures and traditional values, traditions that are still maintained to this day. The urgency of this research is based on the various problems that arise, such as the lack of capacity of village officials who have the ability to manage village finances, limited village financial resources, and the failure to involve traditional leaders in decision making related to the village. The aim of this research is to identify and analyze indigenous value strategies to develop and help the welfare of village communities in Takalar Regency and to make villages independent and sustainable. Factors that influence indigenous value on village development. How can future research be carried out as a basis for producing a policy brief related to independent and sustainable village development? The research method used is qualitative using an ethnographic approach. Data collection used was observation, interviews and documentation. Apart from that, conducting focus group discussions (FGD) involving 50 informants, namely 20 village officials, 15 traditional leaders and 15 village communities. The data analysis used is by using the Miles and Huberman interactive analysis model which consists of data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions/verification and also assisted by the Atlas TI measuring tool.*

**Keywords:** Strategy, Indigenous Values, Village Development, Independent, Sustainable

## INTRODUCTION

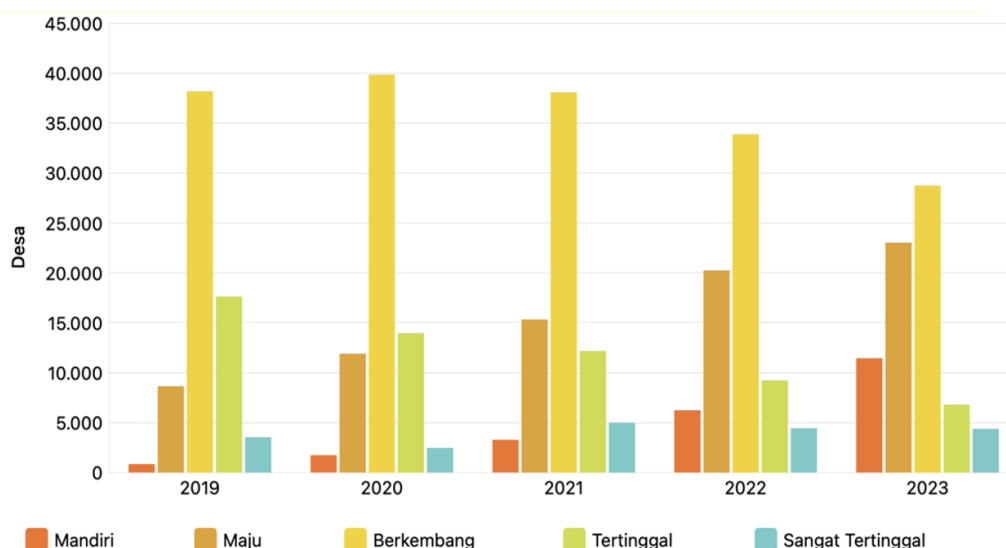
In Indonesia there are 83,794 villages and around 6,803 are still underdeveloped. Based on data from the Village Development Index (IDM) from the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Areas and Transmigration, the number of villages with "very underdeveloped" status in Indonesia has increased in the last five years. The following is the status of the Indonesian developing village index/IDM 2019-2023:

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**Figure 1.** Status of the Indonesian development village index 2019-2023

The era of regional autonomy encourages every region in Indonesia to develop the local potential of each region, including the potential possessed by each village in Indonesia (Hardiyanti, Marzellina, 2022). The village has existed since before Indonesian independence. Implementation of village autonomy in Indonesia is related to decentralization which has led to a concept of autonomy (Dian Hotlando Damanik, 2019). Takalar Regency is one of the regencies in South Sulawesi which has 124 villages with diverse cultures and traditional values, traditions which are still maintained to this day. Some of the problems that hinder village development in Takalar Regency are (1) Lack of capacity of village officials: Village officials are required to have the ability to manage village finances, prepare village regulations, and carry out village development. However, in reality, there are still many village officials who do not have this capability. (2) Village financial resources are still limited: Village funds received from the central government have indeed increased. However, these funds may still not be sufficient to finance all the programs and activities needed by the village. (3) Lack of coordination between the village government and regional government. Good coordination between the village government and regional government is needed to ensure that programs and activities implemented in the village are in line with overall regional development programs and activities. Lack of coordination can lead to program duplication, budget waste, and inefficiency. (4) There is a lack of involvement of traditional leaders and village communities in making decisions and the poverty rate in Takalar Regency is still very high. Therefore, villages are one of the groups that are vulnerable to poverty problems (Purwasih, J.G., Kurniawati, E., Hadi, N., & Utami, 2021). So the government is trying to carry out development with an emphasis on empowering village communities which is expected to revive the spirit of togetherness and mutual cooperation which is increasingly being eroded by urban areas. (Henni Zainal, Aslinda, 2023). The following is a table of the amount of poverty in Takalar Regency based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) from 2021-2024:

| Tahun | Jumlah Penduduk Miskin (Orang) | Persentase Penduduk Miskin (%) |
|-------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2021  | 59.540                         | 9,41                           |
| 2022  | 56.780                         | 8,81                           |
| 2023  | 53.920                         | 8,22                           |
| 2024  | 51.160                         | 7,64                           |

**Figure 2.** Number of poor people in Takalar Regency 2021-2024("Takalar Regency People's Welfare Indicators 2023 can be accessed at <https://takalarkab.bps.go.id/publication.html>," nd).

This research emphasizes the importance of implementation of *indigenous values* to help develop villages in Takalar Regency towards sustainable development and can create a more inclusive development strategy based on local wisdom values so that it will provide wider benefits for the village community and the surrounding environment. Besides that, rural development is a complex reflection of environmental, social and economic factors as well as human activities(Wang, Y., Cheng, L., & Zheng, 2022).

Therefore, the formulation of this research problem is threefold:

1. What is the Strategy of *indigenous values* towards Village Development towards independent and sustainable villages?
2. Factors that influence *indigenous value* on village development?
3. How to develop independent and sustainable villages in Takalar Regency based on *indigenous values*?

A problem solving approach by utilizing indigenous value strategies for village development in all villages of Takalar Regency, South Sulawesi requires problem solving, namely as follows: Creating village regulations that are in line with values and norms based on local wisdom, Developing a creative economy based on indigenous values by utilizing potential local area while maintaining cultural preservation, Making village regulations regarding waste management and cleanliness while maintaining a clean and healthy village environment, Strengthening the village security system based on indigenous values and increasing cooperation between villages in maintaining security by building solidarity and a sense of unity between villages. State of the artand the novelty of this research includes:

**Table 1. State of the art of independent and sustainable village development.**

| Draft                                                                                                                      | Findings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Culturally sustainable development: Maya Culture, Indigenous institutions, and alternative development in Guatemala</i> | T Macneil (2014) discusses case studies and ethnography to provide opportunities for the development of indigenous communities that act in transmodern ways. This study shows that for the development of indigenous communities, transmodernism is very necessary to deal with existing problems(Macneil, 2014).                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Compensation fund as a tool for sustainable development of the Arctic Indigenous communities</i>                        | Andrey Novoselov, Ivan Potravny, Irina Novoselova, Violetta Gassiy (2021) discuss the existence of compensation funds given to Indigenous Peoples for sustainable development if the environment is affected. This study shows that when indigenous communities are affected by disasters, the government still provides compensation in the form of funds for the sustainability of indigenous communities in the future(Novoselova, A., Potravny, I., Novoselova, I., & Gassiy, 2021). |
| Strategy for conserving local wisdom values in the Modern Era by the Osing Komiren Indigenous People                       | Study by Kiki Ayu Arifah, Meidi Saputra (2023) Discusses the preservation of local wisdom values and modernization for sustainable village development through the use of CBT-based technology. This study shows that the value of local                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strategy for maintaining the local wisdom of the Lembata community in facing globalization                        | wisdom will become extinct if it is not implemented by the local community(Arifah, KA, & Saputra, 2023).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Strategy for developing the potential of the village of Medansari, Pajangan, Bantul Regency through SWOT analysis | Lidwina Tuto and Rizki Agung's (2023) study explains that local values need to strengthen resilience in facing the onslaught of globalization. This study discusses the impact on local values which have shifted with changing times(Tuto, L., & Novariyanto, 2023). The study by Saptaningsih Sumarmi, Sukhemi, Lilik Siswanta (2020) discusses the potential of villages with appropriate strategies and programs as well as improving human resources in the form of providing training that can increase human resource competency. This study highlights the potential that exists in the village for development(Sumarmi, 2020). |
| Traditional values as a basis for developing a sustainable residential environment in Tanah Toa Kajang Village    | Bangsawan and Andi Gusti's (2022) study discusses the pattern and structure of residential environments based on empirical experience and spiritual experience to create a cultural system that utilizes the living environment in a sustainable manner. This study emphasizes the meaning and importance of cultural values for environmental sustainability(Noble, 2022).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

The superiority of the problem solving offered in this research, compared to previous research lies in several important aspects including the novelty of the research approach, creating village regulations, previous research only discussed independent and sustainable villages but there were no suitable strategies, especially in remote villages, so in the roots of existing problems will produce renewed strategies in villages, especially in Takalar Regency and in general in Eastern Indonesia. This research proposal will bring a mindset that will give birth to new regulations in village development based on traditional values, how to improve the economy in villages, village resources, special education and training on village finances, collaboration between villages to create independent and sustainable villages. and the most important thing is a renewable strategy that will turn remote villages into independent villages.

## METHOD

Research on strategy of *indigenous value* towards the development of independent and sustainable villages in Takalar Regency, South Sulawesi using a qualitative-based research approach by applying an ethnographic approach. This research will examine in depth how *indigenous values* practiced in the lives of village communities and how these values influence regulations for village development and in village community decision making. Moreover, the value of mutual cooperation in village communities is starting to fade, so village community collaboration and coordination is needed(Goran, TE, Widagdo, S., & Parmawati, 2019). Therefore, it is important to help villages survive, renew and develop through strategic analysis(Bérczi, S., Szabó, Z., & Sallay, 2022). The stages of research using an ethnographic approach described by Spradley in Creswell (2012) are as follows: a). Appoint the informant, b). conduct interviews with informants, c). making ethnographic notes, d). ask descriptive questions, e). conducting ethnographic interview analysis, f). make domain analysis, g). asking structural questions, h). make taxonomic analysis, i). ask contract questions, j). perform componential analysis, k). carry out cultural theme analysis, l). write an ethnographic report.

The research stages that have been and will be carried out start with a literature review and research focus. Data collection used was observation, interviews and documentation. Apart from that, there was also a focus group discussion involving 50 informants, namely 20 village officials, 15 traditional leaders and 15 village residents. The data analysis technique used is Miles and Huberman and also with the help of the Atlas Ti measuring instrument(Miles, MB, Huberman, AM and Saldana, 2018). Interviews with village officials related to the integration of local cultural values and traditions toward *indigenous values* strategies implementation, whether the village has adopted or planned certain strategies to strengthen local values for independent and sustainable village development, what is the role of the community in decision making and program implementation in the village. Interview with traditional leaders about the roles and responsibilities of traditional leaders in developing regulations for independent and sustainable village development of *indigenous values*. It is passed down from generation to generation continuously. Interviews with village communities related to preserving and developing traditional values in Takalar Regency villages, how village communities can maintain and strengthen traditional values amidst social and environmental changes in Takalar village. This interview will specifically

explore the various challenges and supports faced by village officials to improve village infrastructure through indigenous value strategies for independent and sustainable village development.

Research data analysis will be carried out guided by the data analysis techniques introduced by Miles, Huberman and Saldana, namely Interactive Model Analysis (D. Setyawan, A. Priantono, 2021). Before carrying out data analysis, researchers will carry out triangulation (sources, methods and theories) on the data the researchers obtained to test the validity of the data. In this analysis technique, the data that has been collected and tested for validity will later be reduced. Data reduction is carried out by grouping data according to the dimensions used to analyze the data. After the data has been reduced, the data is presented in narrative form, tables, pictures and graphs. Researchers present data in different forms to make it easier for researchers to understand what will happen and plan further research. The final step that will be taken is to draw conclusions. In drawing up conclusions, the researcher does not summarize the entire research results, but the researcher interprets the meaning related to them, indigenous value strategy for independent and sustainable village development in Takalar Regency.

## **RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Indigenous value strategy towards Village Development towards independent and sustainable villages in Takalar Regency**

This research explores how the application of local wisdom values or "indigenous values" can encourage village development towards independence and sustainability in Takalar Regency. The following are several indicators in this research:

a. Strengthening village institutions based on local wisdom as a policy basis

In Takalar Regency, strengthening village institutions by integrating local wisdom, such as the traditions of "sipakatau" (respecting each other) and "sipakainge" (reminding each other), has increased community participation in the policy-making process. Policies based on local values are more easily accepted by the community because they feel directly involved in the process. This approach creates a sense of collective responsibility that strengthens social cohesion and encourages active community involvement in village development (Budi, H., & Santoso, 2019; Cahyono, A., & Nugroho, 2021; Indonesian Ministry of Health, 2021).

b. Increasing the capacity of village officials

Training and mentoring for village officials utilizing local knowledge has shown positive results in increasing their capacity. Village officials who understand and apply local values are more effective in managing resources and implementing development programs. This approach helps bridge government policies with the needs and expectations of village communities, creating a more harmonious and productive environment.

c. Economic empowerment based on local potential

This research found that the use of natural resources based on local wisdom, such as traditional agricultural techniques and environmentally friendly fishing, can increase productivity while maintaining sustainability. Programs that support sustainable management of natural resources provide significant economic benefits to communities, while preserving the environment.

d. Development of superior village products

The development of superior village products based on local wisdom also has a positive impact on the village economy. Products such as handicrafts and organic agricultural products, which are based on local cultural values, have high added value and can be marketed widely. Branding and marketing that promotes local cultural values helps increase product competitiveness in the market.

e. Conservation of the environment and natural resources sustainable agricultural practices

The implementation of sustainable agricultural practices that combine traditional techniques and modern innovation shows that agricultural productivity can be increased without damaging the environment. Agroforestry systems and traditional water management techniques are successful examples of how local wisdom can contribute to sustainable agriculture (Gunawan, A., & Rahman, 2020; Gustiana, Riska and Taufik Hidayat, 2022; Indonesian Ministry of Health, 2021).

f. Strengthening local identity and culture, revitalizing local culture

The revitalization of local cultural activities, such as festivals and traditional traditions, has a positive impact in strengthening local identity and improving the economy through tourism. These cultural activities attract tourists and create jobs, while fostering a sense of pride and solidarity among the community.

g. Cultural education for the younger generation

Cultural education programs for the younger generation that instill local wisdom values from an early age show positive results in preserving culture. Younger generations who understand and appreciate their culture tend to be more committed to preserving it and implementing these values in everyday life.

1. Factors that influence indigenous value on village development in Takalar Regency

The application of local wisdom values (indigenous values) in village development in Takalar Regency has various factors that can support or hinder this process. The following is a detailed explanation of these factors:

1. Factors that support village development in Takalar Regency

- a). Active Community Participation Namely Mutual Cooperation and Deliberation: The strong tradition of mutual cooperation and deliberation in the Takalar community facilitates cooperation in village development. This active participation ensures that decisions taken reflect the aspirations and needs of the community. Community Empowerment: Empowerment programs that involve communities in the planning and implementation of development projects increase the sense of shared ownership and responsibility.
- b). Strong leadership of village officials, namely Local Values Based leadership: Leadership that prioritizes values such as honesty, justice and social responsibility helps build community trust and encourages active participation. Transparency and Accountability: Leaders who are transparent in resource management and accountable for their actions increase legitimacy and community support for Development programs (Henni Zainal, Aslinda, 2023; Hidayat, 2019).
- c). The strong culture and traditions in Takalar Regency are Preserving Local Traditions: Strong traditions and customs provide identity and a foundation for village development. This cultural preservation also attracts tourists and creates economic opportunities. Culture-Based Innovation: The combination of modern innovation with traditional practices increases the relevance and effectiveness of development programs, ensuring sustainability and acceptance by society.
- d). Abundant natural resources namely Sustainable Utilization: Abundant natural resources, if managed sustainably by integrating local knowledge, can improve the village economy without damaging the environment. Environmental Awareness: Local values that emphasize harmony with nature support efforts to preserve the environment and natural resources.

2. Factors that hinder village development in Takalar Regency

- a) Lack of education and awareness such as Limited Education: Lack of education and awareness about the importance of local wisdom in village development can hinder the implementation

of these values. Less Involved Young Generation: Apathy or lack of involvement of the younger generation in preserving local values can threaten the sustainability of local culture.

- b) Limited resources such as Limited Funds: Lack of funds to support village development programs can hinder program implementation and sustainability. Inadequate Infrastructure: Inadequate infrastructure, such as roads, health facilities, and education, reduces community access to basic services and economic opportunities.
- c) Social and cultural changes such as Modernization and Globalization: The influence of modernization and globalization can erode local values, causing cultural shifts that can hinder the application of local wisdom in development. Urbanization: Rapid urbanization can reduce rural populations, reduce the workforce, and threaten the sustainability of rural communities.
- d) Incompatibility of government policies such as Unsynchronized Policies: Government policies that are not synchronized or irrelevant to local conditions can hinder the implementation of local wisdom-based development programs. Complicated Bureaucracy: Complicated and slow bureaucratic processes can hinder the implementation of village development programs.

3. Based on independent and sustainable village development in Takalar Regency *indigenous values*.

Takalar Regency, with its rich culture and natural resources, has great potential to develop independent and sustainable villages. This development requires an approach that utilizes local or indigenous values to achieve balanced prosperity between the economy, social and environment.

a) Utilization of Traditional Irrigation Systems

Research shows that traditional irrigation systems such as "lebak lebung" and "rain-fed rice fields" are still very relevant and effective in Takalar. This system utilizes local knowledge in water and soil management, which not only increases agricultural productivity but also maintains soil fertility and ecosystem sustainability. This system allows farmers to optimize water use and reduce dependence on expensive modern irrigation systems.

b) Community Participation in Program Planning and Implementation

The research results reveal that active community participation in every stage of planning and implementing village development programs is very important. The Takalar community who are directly involved feel ownership of the projects being carried out, which increases the success and sustainability of the program. For example, in village infrastructure development, mutual cooperation based on traditional values has shown better results compared to approaches that only rely on external intervention.

c) Preserving Local Culture and Traditions

Research finds that preserving local culture and traditions has a significant impact on village development. Traditional ceremonies and traditional arts are not only a social identity but also a tourist attraction. Culture-based tourism has opened up new economic opportunities for the Takalar community, where visitors are interested in seeing and experiencing local traditional life and culture firsthand.

d) Education and Training Based on Local Wisdom

Education and training programs that integrate local wisdom have increased community capacity in managing natural resources sustainably. Training on organic farming, agricultural product processing and handicrafts based on local materials not only improves people's skills but also provides added value to local products. This encourages the emergence of small businesses that are able to compete in local and regional markets (Kurniawan, T., & Widodo, 2022; Lestari, D., & Pratama, 2018).

### e) Local Resource Based Economic Development

Economic development that focuses on local resources such as agriculture, fishing and handicrafts shows great potential in creating jobs and increasing people's income. For example, processing agricultural products into processed food products has provided significant added value. Local products that are marketed well can increase the competitiveness and sustainability of the village economy.

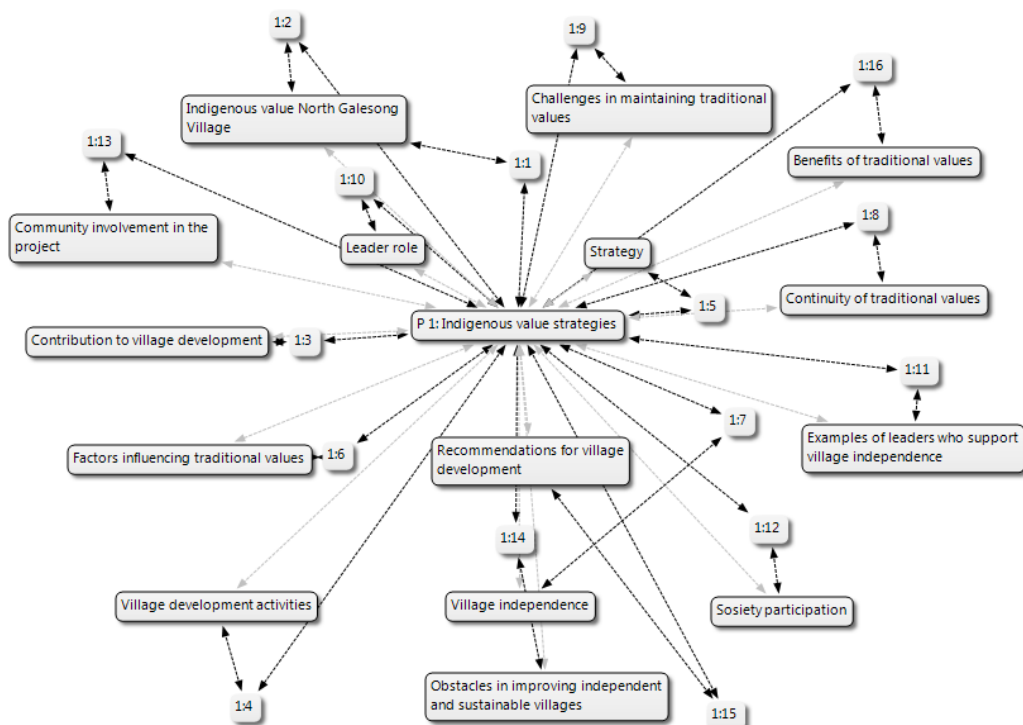
### f) Environmental Conservation Based on Local Wisdom

Research shows that environmental conservation practices based on local wisdom, such as customary forest systems and sustainable agriculture, are able to maintain ecosystem balance. These practices help conserve biodiversity and reduce the impacts of climate change. For example, the Takalar community has practiced agroforestry which combines tree planting with food crops to maintain soil fertility and sustainable food production.

### g) Partnership and Collaboration with External Parties

The research results highlight the importance of partnerships with government, the private sector, and non-government organizations in supporting village development. These partnerships provide resources, expertise and access to markets that increase the effectiveness and sustainability of development programs. Successful programs often involve technical and financial support from external parties working closely with local communities (Munandar, H., & Sukmawati, 2020; Nugraha, P., & Rahmat, 2021).

The research results are systematically arranged based on the Atlas Ti measuring instrument as follows:



**Figure 3.** Results of data processing using Atlas TI.

Based on the results of the processed data, it shows that several informants explained about traditional values and customs such as the value of mutual cooperation that still exists, the nature of helping neighbors and respecting elders as well as the traditional values of the Makassar people, *siri' na pacce*. The value of *siri' na*

pacce is the main factor in society. Siri' is the honor and shame that society must have. It's a shame if other residents are active in every village activity and we don't participate. So, we as a community feel embarrassed if residents/neighbors help with activities while we don't have the time. Meanwhile, pacce is the value of empathy or love, which must also be possessed in society. And all of this must be embedded in the values of society. These values are passed down from each parent from an early age and instilled in everyday social life. Concrete examples where traditional values and customs have helped in village development projects include mosque renovation activities or community service cleaning in front of each house or yard. The community is active in these activities.

The role of leadership in implementing traditional values and customs in the village is very important, that is, the leader is like a person who can unite and separate the community. If the leader is good, it will bring positive things to society, and vice versa. So, a leader must be able to influence his community to be productive and lead to positive things. The obstacles faced in improving villages to become independent and sustainable are cultural influences from outside and the interactions of the younger generation. Because they are the successors and main movers in the community. The way to do this is by providing positive media or activities in the village environment and embracing residents who are starting to go beyond existing values and building positive active communication. Your recommendation for improving village development based on traditional values and customs in the future is to provide positive media and activities in the surrounding environment. Embracing the younger generation in every activity while still instilling traditional values and existing customs.

## **CONCLUSION**

The results of this research confirm that the application of local wisdom values in village development strategies in Takalar Regency can make a significant contribution to village independence and sustainability. An approach that integrates social, economic and environmental aspects based on local wisdom ensures that village development does not only focus on economic growth alone, but also considers social welfare and cultural and environmental preservation. This strategy creates the balance necessary for sustainable and inclusive village development.

Factors that support and hinder the application of local wisdom values in village development in Takalar Regency show that the success of this strategy depends on active community involvement, strong leadership, government support, and preservation of culture and traditions. However, challenges such as lack of education and awareness, limited resources, and social change need to be addressed to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of local wisdom-based village development programs. By identifying and managing these factors, village development can be more effective, inclusive and sustainable.

The development of independent and sustainable villages in Takalar Regency based on indigenous values shows that this approach is not only effective in improving economic prosperity but also preserving culture and the environment. By utilizing local wisdom and actively involving the community, village development programs can be more targeted, sustainable and provide long-term benefits for the entire community.

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