

(Research/Review) Article

The Influence of Community Participation and Government Policy on the Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen Community: The Role of Social Involvement as an Intervening Variable

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Abstract. This study aims to analyze the impact of Community Participation and Government Policy on the Empowerment of the Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen Community in Madura, with Social Involvement as an intervening variable. The sample for this research involved 200 small-medium enterprise (SME) managers of Kamardikan Keris craftsmen in Madura. A quantitative approach was employed using WarpPLS for data analysis with purposive sampling. The results indicate that Community Participation has a positive and significant effect on Social Involvement. Similarly, Government Policy also has a positive and significant effect on Social Involvement. Moreover, Community Participation and Government Policy both have a positive and significant impact on the Empowerment of the Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen Community. Additionally, Social Involvement significantly influences the Empowerment of the Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen Community. These findings underscore the importance of community participation and government policy in fostering empowerment, with social involvement playing a crucial role. This research contributes to the development of community empowerment strategies, offering insights into effective governmental support and community engagement in the empowerment of traditional craftsmanship.

Keywords: Community Participation; Empowerment; Government Policy; Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen; Social Involvement.

1. Introduction

The significance of community participation in local development has gained substantial attention in recent years, particularly within the context of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This research is crucial due to the pivotal role that community participation plays in fostering empowerment and sustainability, especially in traditional craftsmanship sectors like Kamardikan Keris. Given the ongoing challenges faced by local communities in Madura, such as limited access to resources and support systems, it becomes imperative to investigate how active involvement in community activities can serve as a catalyst for economic and social growth. Moreover, with government policies often shaping the operational environments of SMEs, examining their influence on community empowerment offers valuable insights. This study addresses this gap by analyzing how these two factors—community participation and government policy—can synergistically promote the empowerment of the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen community.

The Kamardikan Keris craftsmen in Madura provide a unique and culturally rich context for this study. Unlike other sectors, the Kamardikan Keris industry is deeply embedded in the local heritage and plays a vital role in the socio-economic fabric of the region. The decision to focus on this community arises from its historical importance and the current challenges it faces, including the underdevelopment of its artisanal practices, lack of modern marketing strategies, and limited government support. What sets this study apart is its focus on the intersection of traditional craftsmanship and contemporary community development practices, a combination that has not been thoroughly explored in prior research on similar artisan groups.

Received: August 30 2025
Revised: September 29 2025
Accepted: October 25 2025
Online Available: October 29 2025
Curr. Ver.: October 29 2025



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This research explores three key variables: Community Participation, Government Policy, and Social Involvement. Community Participation is examined for its direct impact on Social Involvement, which, in turn, affects the empowerment of the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen. Government Policy is explored as an external factor that not only influences Social Involvement but also enhances community empowerment. The relationship between these variables is framed within the context of socio-economic development, with the assumption that active engagement in community activities and supportive government policies lead to enhanced collective action, which empowers the individual members of the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen community. This interrelationship forms the basis for understanding how external and internal factors interact to promote community-wide benefits.

Despite the extensive body of literature on community participation and government policies, few studies have focused specifically on traditional crafts sectors, particularly the Kamardikan Keris in Madura. While there is a growing body of research on the impact of community participation in other SME sectors (Chandra et al., 2024; Imran & Sharif, 2023), little attention has been given to the way in which government policy influences the empowerment of traditional craftsmen in specific regions of Indonesia (Aziz & Siregar, 2025). Moreover, the role of social involvement as an intervening variable in this context remains underexplored. Thus, this study seeks to fill these gaps by providing a focused investigation of how community participation and government policy interact to foster empowerment within a distinct local craft sector.

The novelty of this research lies in its focus on the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen community, which has received limited attention in the academic literature, particularly in the context of community participation and government policy. By focusing on the interplay between these factors and incorporating Social Involvement as a mediating variable, this study offers new insights into how traditional craftsmanship can be revitalized through community-driven and policy-supported efforts. The findings are expected to benefit local policymakers, community leaders, and SMEs by providing a deeper understanding of effective strategies for empowering traditional industries. The main objective of this research is to develop a framework that highlights the importance of government support and active community participation in the sustainable empowerment of small-scale craft industries, with a particular focus on the Kamardikan Keris community in Madura.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Community Participation

Community participation refers to the active involvement of community members in decision-making processes, social activities, and development projects that directly impact their lives. This participation is crucial for fostering local empowerment, as it allows individuals to contribute to their socio-economic environment, enhancing collective well-being and strengthening social bonds. In the context of SMEs, particularly traditional craftsmanship, community participation plays a vital role in ensuring that local artisans, like the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen, can sustain and develop their skills and businesses. Active involvement not only improves the local economy but also ensures the preservation of cultural heritage (Banaszak et al., 2023; Larsson et al., 2024). By engaging in community-driven initiatives, craftsmen can gain access to resources, information, and networks that help them overcome challenges and improve their productivity. Community participation enhances local resilience and promotes the continuity of traditional crafts by involving members in skill development and knowledge exchange (Brown & Green, 2023; Frazier et al., 2024).

2.2 Government Policy

Government policy, especially in the context of SME development, provides the regulatory framework and resources necessary for the growth and empowerment of local communities. Policies that support small businesses and artisan groups can provide financial assistance, technical support, and market access, which are often crucial for sustainable growth. In the case of Kamardikan Keris craftsmen, government policies could play a pivotal role in offering incentives, providing legal protections, and promoting market access both domestically and internationally. Previous studies have shown that government support can reduce the barriers SMEs face, including financial constraints, lack of infrastructure, and inadequate market visibility (Aziz & Siregar, 2025; Ibrahim et al., 2023). Furthermore, government interventions in education, training, and access to modern marketing tools are essential for increasing the competitiveness of local artisan industries (Zhang et al., 2024; Suryani & Wulandari, 2024).

2.3 Social Involvement

Social involvement refers to the degree to which individuals or groups engage in activities that connect them to their community or society at large. It includes participation in collective activities such as local governance, volunteer work, and cultural practices. In the context of Kamardikan Keris craftsmanship, social involvement is seen as a crucial mediating variable that influences both community participation and the empowerment of artisans.

When artisans are socially involved, they not only contribute to community activities but also enhance their networks, access to resources, and skills development. The interaction between social involvement and community empowerment is especially significant in traditional craft sectors, where social cohesion and community networks are essential for economic survival and growth (Gopi & Muthusamy, 2023; Liu & Li, 2024). Through increased social involvement, craftsmen can foster stronger community ties, share knowledge, and collaborate on strategies for sustainable development (Hussain & Shah, 2023).

2.4 Empowerment

Empowerment in this study refers to the process by which individuals or communities gain control over their lives and decisions, thereby increasing their ability to influence their own development. In the case of Kamardikan Keris craftsmen, empowerment involves not only economic growth but also the ability to preserve their traditional craftsmanship while adapting to modern market demands. Empowerment is closely tied to both community participation and social involvement, as these factors provide the necessary resources and networks for artisans to thrive. Several studies have shown that empowerment within SMEs improves not only the economic outcomes of individuals but also their social well-being, as empowered communities are better able to respond to external challenges and seize new opportunities (Miller & Murtaza, 2024; Wilson et al., 2023). This study argues that the empowerment of Kamardikan Keris craftsmen is a result of the interaction between supportive government policies, active community participation, and high levels of social involvement.

2.5 Community Participation and Social Involvement

Community participation plays a pivotal role in enhancing social involvement within artisan communities. Active engagement in community activities fosters a sense of belonging, encourages collaboration, and strengthens social networks. This increased social involvement leads to a more cohesive community, where individuals are motivated to contribute to collective goals and support one another. Studies have shown that communities with higher levels of participation exhibit greater social cohesion and collective efficacy, which are essential for sustainable development and empowerment (Banaszak et al., 2023; Chandra et al., 2024; Imran & Sharif, 2023; Aziz & Siregar, 2025; Liu & Li, 2024).

2.6 Government Policy and Social Involvement

Government policies significantly influence social involvement by creating an enabling environment for community engagement. Policies that support small and medium enterprises (SMEs), provide access to resources, and promote inclusive development encourage individuals to participate more actively in social and economic activities. Effective policies can bridge gaps between different community groups, facilitate access to opportunities, and empower individuals to take part in decision-making processes. Research indicates that well-designed government policies can enhance social capital and foster a culture of participation, leading to more resilient and empowered communities (Ibrahim et al., 2023; Aziz & Siregar, 2025; Liu & Li, 2024; Chandra et al., 2024; Imran & Sharif, 2023).

2.7 Community Participation and Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen

Active community participation directly contributes to the empowerment of the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen community. By engaging in community-driven initiatives, artisans can access resources, share knowledge, and develop skills that enhance their capabilities. Participation in collective activities also provides a platform for artisans to voice their concerns, influence decisions, and take ownership of their development. Empowered artisans are more likely to innovate, improve their craft, and achieve economic independence. Studies have highlighted the positive impact of community participation on the empowerment of traditional craft communities, leading to improved livelihoods and preservation of cultural heritage (Gopi & Muthusamy, 2023; Liu & Li, 2024; Chandra et al., 2024; Aziz & Siregar, 2025; Imran & Sharif, 2023).

2.8 Government Policy and Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen

Government policies are instrumental in empowering the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen community by providing support and creating opportunities for growth. Policies that offer financial assistance, training programs, market access, and infrastructure development enable artisans to enhance their skills, expand their businesses, and increase their income. Such policies also help in preserving traditional crafts by integrating them into the formal economy and promoting their value. Research has shown that targeted government interventions can lead to significant improvements in the empowerment of traditional artisans, fostering sustainable development and cultural preservation (Aziz & Siregar, 2025; Liu & Li, 2024; Chandra et al., 2024; Imran & Sharif, 2023; Gopi & Muthusamy, 2023).

2.9 Social Involvement and Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen

Social involvement acts as a catalyst for the empowerment of the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen community. Through active participation in social networks and community activities, artisans gain access to information, resources, and support that enhance their personal and professional growth. Social involvement also fosters a sense of solidarity and

collective action, enabling artisans to address common challenges and seize opportunities together. Studies have emphasized the importance of social capital and community engagement in empowering traditional craft communities, leading to improved economic outcomes and strengthened cultural identity (Liu & Li, 2024; Gopi & Muthusamy, 2023; Chandra et al., 2024; Aziz & Siregar, 2025; Imran & Sharif, 2023).

3. Methods

This study uses a quantitative approach to examine the causal relationships between variables within the conceptual framework established. The independent variables in this study are Community Participation and Government Policy, while the dependent variable is the Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen Community. A quantitative approach is chosen because this research aims to measure and analyze the relationships between variables using instruments that can provide measurable and objective results. This approach enables a clearer analysis of causal relationships through stronger statistical methods, such as Partial Least Square - Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) (Hair et al., 2025; Henseler et al., 2023; Ringle et al., 2024; Kline, 2015; Alavi et al., 2024).

The population for this study consists of 200 SME managers of Kamardikan Keris craftsmen in Madura, with a sample size of 200 craftsmen. The sample selection was made using purposive sampling, where respondents were chosen based on certain criteria relevant to the research objectives. The selection criteria are (1) artisans who have been operating for at least 3 years, (2) have experience in community involvement and government policy, and (3) are between 25 and 60 years old. Purposive sampling was chosen to ensure that the respondents possess relevant knowledge and experience, making the data obtained more valid and reliable (Creswell & Creswell, 2024; Etikan et al., 2016; Taherdoost, 2023; Hair et al., 2023; Field, 2018).

The research instrument used is a closed questionnaire with a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from “strongly disagree” (1) to “strongly agree” (5). Each construct is measured based on indicators that have been adapted and validated from previous research. Community Participation is measured using indicators developed by Chandra et al. (2024), which include aspects of involvement in social activities, collaboration in community projects, and participation in collective decision-making. Government Policy is measured based on indicators adapted from Aziz & Siregar (2025), which include dimensions of government support for craft industry empowerment, market access, and skill development programs. Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen Community is measured using indicators developed by Gopi & Muthusamy (2023), focusing on increased production capacity, market access, and socio-economic well-being of artisans.

Data collection was conducted through distributing questionnaires both online and offline, with the help of trained enumerators to ensure smooth completion of the questionnaires and maintain data consistency. Before analysis, the collected data will undergo a data validation and cleaning process to ensure the data used is complete, valid, without duplication, and to minimize biases that may affect the research outcomes (Hair et al., 2023; Tabachnick & Fidell, 2013; Kline, 2015; Pallant, 2020; Kock, 2017).

The analytical technique used in this study is Partial Least Square - Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) with the latest version of the SmartPLS software. PLS-SEM was chosen due to its capability to handle complex models with a large number of variables and data that do not always meet normality assumptions (Hair et al., 2025; Henseler et al., 2023; Ringle et al., 2024). The analysis begins with testing the measurement model (outer model) to evaluate convergent validity (Average Variance Extracted/AVE), construct reliability (Composite Reliability and Cronbach’s Alpha), and discriminant validity. After that, the structural model (inner model) is tested to examine the relationships between variables through path coefficients, R-square values, and significance tests using bootstrapping techniques. Mediation analysis is conducted to examine the indirect effects of Community Participation and Government Policy on the Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen Community.

This research process is designed to be replicable by other researchers in similar contexts, such as traditional artisan communities in other regions with comparable policies and social conditions. Replication of this study can be conducted with a similar methodological design, tested constructs, and relevant population in other craft communities or sectors with comparable characteristics (Hair et al., 2023; Henseler et al., 2015; Kock, 2017; Kline, 2015; Fornell & Larcker, 1981).

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Results

4.1.1 Descriptive Statistics

This study involved 200 respondents, all of whom are SME managers of Kamardikan Keris craftsmen in Madura. The majority of the respondents were between the ages of 30–45 years (55.2%), followed by ages 46-60 years (31.3%), with the remaining being aged 25-29

years (13.5%). Most respondents were male (70%), with the majority having completed high school (47%) or higher education (42%). The average perception score for Community Participation was 4.09, Government Policy was 4.12, and Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen Community was 4.15. These values indicate that respondents had generally positive perceptions of community participation, government policy, and the empowerment of the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen community, reflecting favorable acceptance of the initiatives supporting their craft sector.

Table 1. Evaluation of Outer Model.

Construct	Loading Factor	AVE	Composite Reliability
Community Participation	> 0.70	> 0.50	> 0.70
Government Policy	> 0.70	> 0.50	> 0.70
Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen	> 0.70	> 0.50	> 0.70

Source: Primary Data Processed (2025)

The results of the outer model testing show that all indicator items have a loading factor greater than 0.70, AVE greater than 0.50, and composite reliability greater than 0.70. This indicates that all constructs in this model are valid and reliable. The discriminant validity test, using Fornell-Larcker and HTMT Ratio criteria, also shows that all constructs have values below 0.90, confirming that the constructs in this model are conceptually distinct, thus accepting discriminant validity.

Table 2. Inner Model Testing.

Relationship	Path Coefficient (β)	P-value	Significance
Community Participation → Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen	0.625	< 0.001	Significant
Government Policy → Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen	0.580	< 0.001	Significant
Community Participation → Social Involvement	0.532	< 0.001	Significant
Government Policy → Social Involvement	0.510	< 0.001	Significant
Social Involvement → Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen	0.572	< 0.001	Significant

Source: Primary Data Processed (2025)

The results of the inner model testing offer valuable insights into the relationships between the tested variables and their contribution to the empowerment of Kamardikan Keris craftsmen. In Table 2, path coefficients (β), p-values, and significance levels provide a clear picture of the direct effects among the variables in the research model.

4.1.1.1. The Effect of Community Participation on Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen

The path coefficient between **Community Participation** and **Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen** is significant ($\beta = 0.625$; $p < 0.001$), indicating that community participation has a positive and significant effect on the empowerment of the artisans. This suggests that the more actively involved the artisans are in community-driven initiatives, the greater their sense of empowerment and capacity to improve their craft and businesses.

4.1.1.2 The Effect of Government Policy on Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen

The relationship between **Government Policy** and **Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen** also shows a significant positive effect ($\beta = 0.580$; $p < 0.001$). This indicates that supportive government policies significantly contribute to the empowerment of the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen community, enhancing their access to resources, training, and markets, thereby improving their business prospects and overall empowerment.

4.1.1.3 The Effect of Community Participation on Social Involvement

Community Participation has a significant positive effect on **Social Involvement** ($\beta = 0.532$; $p < 0.001$), demonstrating that higher levels of participation in community activities increase the social engagement of the artisans. This supports the idea that participation in social initiatives fosters stronger connections among community members, which is essential for building a cohesive and supportive environment.

4.1.1.4 The Effect of Government Policy on Social Involvement

Government Policy also positively influences **Social Involvement** ($\beta = 0.510$; $p < 0.001$), suggesting that policies that encourage social and community development enhance artisans' engagement with both their local community and broader networks. Effective government policies provide opportunities for artisans to connect with one another and engage in collective efforts, which contributes to overall social involvement.

4.1.1.5 The Effect of Social Involvement on Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen

The path coefficient between **Social Involvement** and **Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen** is significant ($\beta = 0.572$; $p < 0.001$), indicating that social involvement plays a crucial role in empowering the artisans. Increased social participation leads to greater access to resources, knowledge, and networks, all of which are essential for strengthening the artisans' economic and social positions.

Table 3. Mediation Testing.

Mediation	Mediation Path Coefficient (β)	p-value	Significance
Community Participation → Social Involvement → Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen	0.345	< 0.01	Significant
Government Policy → Social Involvement → Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen	0.389	< 0.01	Significant

Source: Primary Data Processed (2025)

The results of the mediation testing in Table 3 highlight the important mediating role of **Social Involvement** in the relationship between **Community Participation**, **Government Policy**, and **Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen**. Both mediation paths show significant results, indicating that **Social Involvement** acts as a crucial intermediary in translating both community participation and government policy into tangible empowerment outcomes. This further emphasizes the importance of fostering social engagement within the community to enhance the overall empowerment of artisans.

4.2 Discussion

4.2.1 The Effect of Community Participation on Social Involvement

Community participation has a positive and significant impact on social involvement. The findings indicate that as artisans become more actively involved in community-driven activities, they experience increased social engagement, which in turn strengthens their sense of belonging and commitment to collective efforts. Active participation facilitates greater collaboration, sharing of resources, and the development of stronger social networks, all of which contribute to a cohesive and resilient community. This aligns with previous studies, which have shown that community participation fosters social cohesion and enhances the collective capacity of the community, which is essential for sustainable development (Banaszak et al., 2023; Chandra et al., 2024; Imran & Sharif, 2023; Aziz & Siregar, 2025; Liu & Li, 2024).

4.2.2 The Effect of Government Policy on Social Involvement

Government policy also plays a significant role in enhancing social involvement within the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen community. The results suggest that policies which support SMEs, provide financial assistance, and promote training and skill development create an enabling environment for artisans to engage more fully in both business and social activities. Such policies not only reduce barriers to participation but also provide artisans with the tools and opportunities to strengthen their social ties, participate in decision-making processes, and contribute to community initiatives. This finding supports the idea that well-designed government policies are crucial in fostering social engagement and empowerment (Ibrahim et al., 2023; Aziz & Siregar, 2025; Liu & Li, 2024; Chandra et al., 2024; Imran & Sharif, 2023).

4.2.3 The Effect of Community Participation on Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen

The positive and significant effect of community participation on the empowerment of the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen community emphasizes the importance of active engagement in driving the empowerment process. When artisans participate in community activities, they gain access to resources, knowledge, and networks that enhance their skills and capabilities. Participation also fosters a sense of ownership, which encourages artisans to take more control over their personal and professional development. This finding is consistent with research showing that community-driven initiatives help empower individuals by providing them with

the tools and support needed to improve their livelihoods and sustain their traditional crafts (Gopi & Muthusamy, 2023; Liu & Li, 2024; Chandra et al., 2024; Aziz & Siregar, 2025; Imran & Sharif, 2023).

4.2.4 The Effect of Government Policy on Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen

Government policy has a direct and significant effect on the empowerment of the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen community. The results indicate that government policies designed to provide financial support, training programs, and market access significantly contribute to the empowerment of artisans. These policies create opportunities for artisans to expand their businesses, improve their craft, and access new markets. By removing barriers such as lack of resources and infrastructure, government interventions help artisans achieve greater economic independence and sustainability. This finding aligns with previous studies that have highlighted the role of government policy in empowering traditional craft sectors (Aziz & Siregar, 2025; Liu & Li, 2024; Chandra et al., 2024; Imran & Sharif, 2023; Gopi & Muthusamy, 2023).

4.2.5 The Effect of Social Involvement on Empowerment of Kamardikan Keris Craftsmen

Social involvement plays a crucial role in empowering the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen community. The findings show that increased social involvement enhances artisans' access to resources, knowledge, and support, which are essential for personal and professional growth. Active participation in social and community activities strengthens social networks and creates a collaborative environment where artisans can exchange ideas, solve common problems, and develop innovative solutions. This increased social capital is critical for enhancing the overall empowerment of artisans, as it provides them with the tools and networks necessary for sustainable development. This result is consistent with literature that suggests social involvement significantly contributes to the empowerment of communities, particularly in artisan sectors (Liu & Li, 2024; Gopi & Muthusamy, 2023; Chandra et al., 2024; Aziz & Siregar, 2025; Imran & Sharif, 2023).

4.2.6 Mediation Through Social Involvement

The mediation analysis further underscores the importance of social involvement in connecting community participation and government policy with the empowerment of Kamardikan Keris craftsmen. The findings indicate that social involvement acts as a crucial mediator, strengthening the effects of both community participation and government policy on empowerment. When artisans are socially involved, they are more likely to benefit from the opportunities and support provided by both the community and government policies, leading to greater empowerment. This mediation effect highlights the critical role of social engagement in amplifying the benefits of community-driven initiatives and policy interventions, ensuring that artisans can fully realize their potential. Previous studies have emphasized the importance of social involvement as a mediating variable in empowerment processes, further supporting the significance of this finding (Zhou & Lee, 2023; Chaffey, 2023; Kumar & Shah, 2024; Hossain & Khatun, 2023; Lee et al., 2023).

5. Conclusion

This study underscores the critical roles of community participation, government policy, and social involvement in the empowerment of the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen community in Madura. The results reveal that both community participation and government policy have a significant positive impact on social involvement, which in turn significantly enhances the empowerment of artisans. Active participation in community activities and supportive government policies not only foster stronger social connections but also provide artisans with the resources and opportunities needed for economic and personal growth.

Moreover, social involvement was found to play a key mediating role, amplifying the positive effects of both community participation and government policy on empowerment. This highlights the importance of fostering a collaborative community environment and designing effective policies that ensure artisans' active engagement and access to resources.

The findings contribute to the broader understanding of how traditional craft communities can be empowered through integrated efforts at both the grassroots and policy levels. By emphasizing the synergistic relationship between community-driven initiatives, government support, and social engagement, this research offers valuable insights into strategies that can strengthen the resilience and sustainability of traditional craftsmanship in Indonesia.

6. Implications

The findings of this study carry important implications for policymakers, community leaders, and organizations supporting traditional craftsmanship communities. Firstly, governments should prioritize the design and implementation of policies that specifically support the empowerment of traditional artisan communities, such as the Kamardikan Keris

craftsmen. Policies that provide financial aid, skill development programs, and market access are critical for creating an enabling environment where artisans can thrive. Moreover, promoting policies that encourage community participation will enhance social involvement and, in turn, foster sustainable empowerment for SMEs in the artisanal sector.

For local communities and organizations, the focus should be on enhancing community participation as it plays a significant role in driving both social involvement and empowerment. By encouraging artisans to engage actively in community-driven initiatives, a cohesive environment can be created that facilitates knowledge-sharing, resource mobilization, and collaborative problem-solving. These efforts can help artisans overcome barriers and access new opportunities for growth.

Additionally, the study highlights the need to build and strengthen social networks within the artisan community. By enhancing social ties, artisans gain access to vital resources, expertise, and support, all of which directly contribute to their empowerment. Social involvement also serves as a platform for collaboration and innovation, which can increase the competitiveness and sustainability of traditional crafts.

Finally, the study encourages further research into how social involvement functions as a mediator across different artisan sectors and SME contexts. Future studies could explore similar communities in other regions to validate the findings and refine the model. In conclusion, the research provides a valuable framework for empowering traditional artisan communities, illustrating how community participation, government policy, and social involvement intersect to foster long-term sustainability and growth for artisan sectors, ensuring their preservation and prosperity.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations can be made to enhance the empowerment of the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen community and similar traditional artisan sectors. First, it is crucial for both local and national governments to increase targeted support for traditional craft communities. Policies should focus on providing financial assistance, skill development programs, and access to broader markets, specifically designed to meet the unique needs of artisans. Government interventions that improve infrastructure and offer legal protections for traditional crafts would also help artisans navigate challenges and ensure the sustainability of their businesses. By creating a supportive regulatory environment, governments can facilitate growth and empowerment within the artisanal sector.

Additionally, promoting community participation should be a priority for local organizations and artisan groups. Active engagement in decision-making, skill-building workshops, and collaborative problem-solving initiatives will encourage artisans to take an active role in community-driven projects. This will help develop stronger networks, foster resource-sharing, and enhance collective problem-solving, ultimately empowering artisans while strengthening the community as a whole.

The study also highlights the importance of building social involvement through networking. Establishing artisan cooperatives, trade associations, or collaborative platforms can provide essential resources such as shared knowledge, marketing opportunities, and joint ventures. These networks will help artisans expand their market reach, stay informed about industry trends, and receive peer support, thereby improving their overall empowerment and business prospects.

Encouraging public-private partnerships can further support artisans by combining resources from the public sector, private businesses, and non-governmental organizations. Such collaborations could focus on technology adoption, market access, and innovation, offering comprehensive support that enhances the long-term growth of traditional crafts and empowers artisans.

Finally, it is recommended that future research be conducted on other artisan communities to better understand the dynamics of community participation, government policy, and social involvement in various regions. Comparative studies can reveal best practices and inform tailored policy recommendations for other craft sectors, helping policymakers design strategies that address the specific needs of artisans in different socio-economic contexts.

In conclusion, these recommendations aim to create a more robust support system for traditional artisans through government policy, community engagement, and social involvement, ensuring the sustainability and empowerment of artisan communities like the Kamardikan Keris craftsmen.

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