



Traditional Wisdom and Policy Formulation in Bayung Gede Village, Bali Province

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Abstract

Traditional wisdom has been a cornerstone of governance and community practices in many indigenous villages, yet its integration into modern policy-making remains a complex challenge. This study examines the role of traditional wisdom in policy formulation in Bayung Gede Village, Bali, focusing on agriculture, environmental management, and governance. Through qualitative methods, including semi-structured interviews and participatory observation, the research investigates how local governance systems and traditional agricultural practices contribute to sustainability. The findings show that traditional governance, rooted in spiritual beliefs and collective decision-making, fosters community cohesion and ecological balance. Traditional agricultural practices, such as organic farming and communal irrigation systems, support long-term environmental sustainability. However, the study also reveals the challenges of integrating these practices into contemporary policy frameworks that prioritize economic growth and efficiency. The study concludes that incorporating traditional wisdom into modern policy can enhance sustainability and promote more inclusive, culturally appropriate development strategies. The research contributes to the body of knowledge on the integration of indigenous knowledge into policy-making, highlighting the potential for bridging the gap between traditional and modern governance. Future research could focus on evaluating the effectiveness of such integration in other rural communities and examining its impact on sustainable development.

INTRODUCTION

Traditional wisdom has played a significant role in shaping the socio-economic and political landscapes of rural communities around the world, providing valuable knowledge that has been passed down through generations. In the context of Bali, Indonesia, traditional wisdom is not only seen as a cultural heritage but also as a practical guide for policy formulation and community development. One of the villages where this wisdom plays a pivotal role is Bayung Gede in Bali Province, where indigenous knowledge has long been intertwined with governance, environmental stewardship, and community cohesion. The integration of this traditional knowledge

into contemporary policy-making processes offers significant potential for fostering sustainable development and strengthening community resilience. While global development paradigms have often focused on modernization and technology-driven solutions, there is a growing recognition of the value that traditional practices bring to the table, especially in rural and indigenous contexts (Sutawan, 2019; Xiao et al., 2025; Ajitha et al., 2025; Quarshie & Poku, 2025; Kumari et al., 2025). The challenge, however, lies in finding ways to incorporate this wisdom into modern policy frameworks without losing its essence or effectiveness.

The importance of traditional wisdom in shaping local policies is especially relevant in the context of rapid socio-economic transformations in rural areas, such as those occurring in Bali. Studies have shown that traditional governance systems in Bali, particularly those in villages like Bayung Gede, are not only rooted in historical and cultural practices but are also deeply embedded in the local ecological systems (Baker & Agung, 2020). These systems have been effective in managing natural resources, mediating social relations, and maintaining cultural continuity. However, the increasing influence of modern governance structures, along with external pressures from tourism and globalization, has put these traditional systems under strain (Wheatley, 2024). In particular, Bayung Gede's agricultural practices, which rely heavily on communal knowledge and sustainable resource management, are facing challenges from modern agricultural policies, market demands, and climate change. Understanding how traditional wisdom can be integrated into modern policy-making to support sustainable development is therefore crucial in ensuring that villages like Bayung Gede retain their cultural heritage while adapting to contemporary challenges.

The main research problem addressed by this study is how traditional wisdom in Bayung Gede can inform and shape policy formulation in the context of modern governance structures. There is an emerging consensus that traditional knowledge, particularly in the domains of agriculture, environmental management, and community-based decision-making, can provide valuable insights for creating policies that are both locally grounded and sustainable (Kumar & Kumar, 2021; Silva-Ávila et al., 2025; Benyei et al., 2022; Ahule & Oragbai, 2025). However, the challenge remains in effectively bridging the gap between traditional wisdom and modern policy approaches, which often emphasize efficiency, economic growth, and technological advancement over cultural and ecological considerations. This study, therefore, aims to explore how the traditional governance systems in Bayung Gede can be better integrated into the broader policy landscape to promote a more sustainable and inclusive development model.

In addressing this research problem, the study draws on a wide range of scholarly work, including research on indigenous knowledge systems, sustainable development, and community-based governance. Several studies have highlighted the critical role of indigenous knowledge in managing natural resources sustainably, particularly in the face of climate change and environmental degradation (Berkes, 2018; Davis, 2020). These studies argue that traditional knowledge, when integrated with modern scientific approaches, can lead to more adaptive and resilient environmental management strategies. In the case of Bayung Gede, this could involve leveraging traditional agricultural practices, such as organic farming and communal water management systems, which have long been effective in maintaining ecological balance, while adapting them to contemporary policy frameworks that address economic and global challenges.

The literature on policy integration suggests that blending traditional knowledge with modern governance is not only possible but also beneficial for achieving long-term sustainability. For instance, studies in other parts of Indonesia, such as Lombok and Flores, have demonstrated how the integration of local wisdom into tourism policies

has led to more sustainable and culturally sensitive tourism practices (Tajuddin, 2019). Similarly, research on the role of traditional knowledge in natural resource management has shown that these systems often promote more equitable and participatory decision-making, which can improve community well-being and foster social cohesion (Mulyani, 2021; Sibanda, 2024; Rani et al., 2025; Dawson et al., 2021). These studies provide valuable lessons for Bayung Gede, where traditional systems could play a significant role in addressing the challenges posed by modern policy frameworks.

Despite these promising examples, there remains a gap in the literature regarding the specific mechanisms through which traditional wisdom can be integrated into local policy frameworks in Bali. While there is substantial research on the role of traditional knowledge in resource management and community governance, there is less focus on how this knowledge can be systematically incorporated into the formal policy-making processes at the village or provincial level. This gap is particularly relevant in the context of Bayung Gede, where traditional governance structures are still intact but increasingly face pressure from modern economic systems. The study, therefore, aims to fill this gap by exploring the mechanisms through which traditional wisdom can inform and influence policy-making in the village, particularly in relation to agricultural and environmental policy.

The purpose of this study is to examine the role of traditional wisdom in policy formulation in Bayung Gede Village, Bali, with a specific focus on sustainable development practices. The study seeks to identify how traditional governance systems and indigenous knowledge can be effectively integrated into modern policy-making processes, thereby fostering a more sustainable and culturally appropriate development model. By focusing on the unique context of Bayung Gede, the study aims to provide insights into how traditional wisdom can be a valuable resource in addressing contemporary challenges, particularly those related to agriculture, environmental management, and community well-being. The novelty of this study lies in its exploration of the practical applications of traditional wisdom in modern governance systems, offering a model that could be applicable to other rural communities facing similar challenges. Ultimately, the study seeks to demonstrate the potential for blending traditional knowledge with modern policies to create more sustainable and inclusive development strategies in Bali and beyond.

METHODS

This study employs a qualitative research methodology to explore the role of traditional wisdom in policy formulation in Bayung Gede Village, Bali. The research focuses on understanding how indigenous knowledge and local governance systems influence and can be integrated into modern policy-making, particularly in the fields of agriculture, environment, and community governance. The methodological approach is designed to capture both the richness of traditional practices and their potential applications in contemporary governance.

Research Design

Given the nature of the research problem, a qualitative approach was chosen to explore the complex, context-specific knowledge embedded in traditional governance systems. Qualitative research is well-suited to the investigation of culturally specific practices, beliefs, and values, as it allows for a deep exploration of participants' perspectives and experiences (Creswell, 2014). The research design is descriptive and interpretive, aiming to describe the role of traditional wisdom in policy-making and understand its implications for local governance and sustainability.

The study uses an exploratory design to investigate the integration of traditional knowledge into policy-making processes. As the field of traditional wisdom and policy

formulation in rural Bali remains underexplored, this study takes an inductive approach, building new theoretical insights from the empirical data collected. This design allows for flexibility in data collection and analysis, enabling the researcher to adapt to the findings as they emerge and explore areas that were not initially anticipated (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

Research Setting and Participants

The research was conducted in Bayung Gede Village, located in the province of Bali, Indonesia. Bayung Gede is a rural village known for its rich cultural heritage, traditional agricultural practices, and local governance systems that are deeply influenced by Balinese customs and spiritual beliefs. The village provides an ideal setting for exploring the role of traditional wisdom in policy formulation because its community still largely adheres to indigenous practices and governance structures, particularly in the management of agricultural resources and environmental protection.

The participants in the study were selected using purposive sampling, a non-probability sampling technique that focuses on selecting individuals who have knowledge or experience relevant to the research topic (Creswell, 2014). The sample included key informants from the village, such as village leaders (kelian desa), elders, local farmers, and community members involved in decision-making processes related to agriculture and environmental management. The total number of participants was 25, which included both men and women from various age groups and social backgrounds, to ensure a diverse representation of perspectives within the community.

In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the topic, the study also involved interviews with local government officials who are engaged in policy development and environmental governance in the broader Bali province. This was essential to provide a contrast between traditional governance systems and modern policy frameworks and to explore how these two systems can be integrated.

Data Collection Methods

Data for this study were collected through semi-structured interviews and participatory observation. Semi-structured interviews were chosen as the primary data collection method due to their flexibility, allowing the researcher to explore participants' views in depth while also focusing on specific research questions (Bryman, 2016). The interviews were conducted in the Balinese language, which was translated and transcribed into English for analysis. Each interview lasted approximately 60–90 minutes, with follow-up interviews conducted as necessary to clarify points or explore emerging themes.

The semi-structured interview guide was developed based on the research objectives and literature review, and included open-ended questions designed to explore the role of traditional knowledge in the village's policy-making processes. Some of the key questions asked participants to reflect on their understanding of traditional governance systems, the role of elders and spiritual leaders in decision-making, and the ways in which these systems could contribute to modern policy. The questions also sought to identify challenges that arise when integrating traditional wisdom with contemporary policies.

In addition to interviews, participatory observation was used to gain insights into the daily practices and communal activities in Bayung Gede Village. This method allowed the researcher to observe how traditional wisdom is enacted in practice, particularly in the context of agricultural activities, community meetings, and environmental stewardship. Participatory observation also enabled the researcher to understand

the dynamics of local governance and decision-making processes, providing a deeper context for the interview data.

Data Analysis

The data collected through interviews and observation were analyzed using thematic analysis, a widely used qualitative analysis method that involves identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns (themes) within data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Thematic analysis is particularly suitable for this study because it allows for the exploration of how traditional wisdom is conceptualized and applied in policy formulation.

The analysis process began with transcribing the interviews verbatim and organizing the data into categories that reflected the major themes related to the research questions. After transcribing, the researcher read through the data multiple times to become familiar with the content and identify initial codes. These codes were then grouped into broader themes that emerged during the coding process. For example, themes such as "community decision-making," "agricultural knowledge," and "spiritual governance" were identified as key elements that reflect how traditional wisdom influences policy.

Thematic analysis was conducted inductively, meaning that themes were derived directly from the data rather than being pre-determined. This approach allowed for a deeper exploration of the issues raised by participants, ensuring that the findings were grounded in the local context. Once the themes were identified, they were reviewed, refined, and finalized to ensure they accurately captured the essence of the data. Throughout the analysis, constant comparisons were made between different data sources (e.g., interviews with elders versus government officials) to ensure consistency and validity in the interpretation.

The results of the thematic analysis were then interpreted within the broader theoretical framework of indigenous knowledge and governance, comparing the findings from Bayung Gede with existing literature on traditional governance and policy integration. This helped to contextualize the results within the broader discussion of how indigenous knowledge systems can be integrated into contemporary governance models, particularly in the context of rural Bali.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the findings of the study on the integration of traditional wisdom in policy formulation in Bayung Gede Village, Bali. The results are derived from qualitative data collected through semi-structured interviews and participatory observation. The analysis focuses on understanding the role of traditional knowledge systems in shaping local policy, particularly in the domains of agriculture, environmental management, and governance. The findings are organized around three main themes: (1) the role of traditional governance systems, (2) the impact of traditional agricultural practices on sustainability, and (3) the integration of traditional wisdom in contemporary policy frameworks. These themes were identified through thematic analysis, as outlined in the methodology.

The Role of Traditional Governance Systems in Bayung Gede

One of the key findings of this study is the continued importance of traditional governance systems in Bayung Gede. The village's governance structure is deeply rooted in the Balinese system of "Desa Adat" (customary village), which has its origins in ancient Balinese society. These governance systems are not only a mechanism for managing local affairs but are also tied to spiritual beliefs, customs, and ecological management practices (Tajuddin, 2019). The leaders of the Desa Adat, known as

"kelian desa," play a central role in decision-making processes, often in consultation with spiritual leaders and elders.

In semi-structured interviews, one local elder explained:

"The kelian desa is the voice of the community. The decisions we make reflect the harmony between people, nature, and our gods. We follow spiritual guidance and always aim for collective well-being."

This perspective reflects the deep integration of spiritual and communal principles in governance, emphasizing the ethical and ecological responsibility entrusted to the kelian desa.

The semi-structured interviews revealed that the community perceives these leaders as guardians of tradition, responsible for ensuring the continuity of cultural practices and the sustainable management of natural resources. One interviewee, a local farmer, noted,

"The kelian desa not only addresses our village's issues but also makes sure we are respecting our land, water, and the forest. This is something that has been passed down for generations."

These traditional governance practices are based on principles of harmony with nature and mutual respect within the community. The role of the kelian desa in facilitating community discussions is essential, ensuring that decisions reflect collective values. This participatory model, driven by communal discussion and consensus, contrasts with more centralized and individualistic forms of governance seen in modern policy-making frameworks. The role of traditional leaders in facilitating this participatory process is crucial, as it helps maintain social cohesion and ensures that policies are reflective of the community's cultural values and needs.

This finding aligns with the work of Berkes (2018), who suggests that traditional governance systems are inherently designed to support sustainable community development through the integration of ecological knowledge and collective decision-making. The governance system in Bayung Gede is seen as a tool for maintaining community cohesion and for promoting sustainable practices, and its continued relevance is confirmed by the elders and other community members involved in local decision-making processes.

The Impact of Traditional Agricultural Practices on Sustainability

Another significant finding relates to the role of traditional agricultural practices in promoting sustainability in Bayung Gede. The village has a long history of organic farming, which is based on the principles of "Tri Hita Karana," the Balinese philosophy of achieving harmony between people, nature, and the divine. Traditional farming methods in Bayung Gede emphasize soil preservation, water management, and biodiversity, all of which contribute to the long-term sustainability of the agricultural system.

Through participatory observation, the study found that rice farming, in particular, remains central to the community's economy and is practiced according to methods passed down through generations. One local farmer explained,

"We use natural fertilizers like cow dung and rely on the traditional irrigation system. This way, the soil remains fertile, and our crops stay healthy."

Traditional practices such as the use of organic fertilizers, crop rotation, and the conservation of water resources through communal irrigation systems are still widely practiced. These methods not only preserve the ecological balance but also promote social solidarity, as community members work together to manage irrigation systems and share farming resources. A farmer shared,

"The rice fields are a shared responsibility. We all contribute to the irrigation, and when it's harvest time, we share the rice equally."

The data collected through interviews and observation also revealed that the practice of "Subak" (the traditional Balinese water management system) is central to sustainable agriculture in Bayung Gede. Subak is a system that relies on communal management of water resources for rice cultivation, where the local farmers work together to distribute water efficiently and equally. The cooperative management of water resources ensures that no single individual or family can monopolize the water supply, promoting fairness and ecological balance. One participant explained,

"Water is sacred for us. We use it together, respect it, and ensure everyone has enough."

Interviews with local farmers highlighted that while traditional agricultural practices are labor-intensive, they are highly valued for their ability to maintain soil fertility and resilience to environmental stress. One farmer remarked,

"We do not need chemicals; we use natural methods to nurture the land, and the land returns the favor."

This statement reflects the deep connection between the people of Bayung Gede and their environment, emphasizing the interdependence between sustainable agricultural practices and traditional knowledge.

The impact of these practices on sustainability is evident when comparing Bayung Gede's agricultural system with those in nearby areas where modern, chemical-intensive farming methods are more common. These neighboring areas have experienced significant soil degradation and reduced agricultural productivity, further reinforcing the value of traditional agricultural wisdom. This finding aligns with Berkes' (2018) assertion that traditional ecological knowledge is particularly effective in promoting sustainable resource management, especially in small-scale farming communities.

Integration of Traditional Wisdom into Contemporary Policy Frameworks

The third major finding of this study concerns the integration of traditional wisdom into contemporary policy frameworks. Despite the recognition of the value of traditional knowledge in Bayung Gede, the integration of these practices into formal policy-making remains limited. Interviews with local government officials revealed that while traditional wisdom is often respected, it is rarely incorporated into official policies. This gap between local knowledge and formal policy is particularly evident in the areas of agriculture and environmental management.

For example, government policies aimed at agricultural development often prioritize modern, high-yield farming techniques that rely heavily on chemical inputs and mechanization. These policies, while designed to increase productivity, do not align with the sustainable practices embedded in the village's traditional knowledge systems. Some participants expressed frustration with this disconnect, arguing that traditional methods should be recognized and incorporated into policy frameworks to create more sustainable and culturally appropriate development strategies.

One interviewee, a local government official, noted that,

"While we have modern development goals, we cannot ignore the wisdom of our elders. There is a need for better integration of local knowledge into the policy-making process."

This sentiment was echoed by several other participants, who stressed that traditional knowledge is a valuable resource that can complement modern policies, particularly in the areas of resource management, community engagement, and

environmental sustainability. These findings support the work of Davis (2020), who argues that integrating indigenous knowledge into policy-making can lead to more contextually appropriate and sustainable outcomes.

The research also found that the lack of formal recognition of traditional governance systems in policy frameworks contributes to the marginalization of local communities in decision-making processes. Bayung Gede's traditional leaders and elders often have little influence in official policy meetings or regional planning discussions, despite their significant role in local governance. This highlights the need for more inclusive policy processes that recognize and value indigenous knowledge as a legitimate source of expertise.

Challenges in Integrating Traditional Knowledge into Policy

The study also identified several challenges in integrating traditional wisdom into modern policy frameworks. One of the main obstacles is the tendency of national and regional governments to prioritize economic growth and technological innovation over cultural and ecological considerations. As noted by local leaders, policies often come from the top down, with little consideration for the local context or the traditional knowledge systems that have been effective in managing natural resources for centuries.

Another challenge is the lack of institutional support for traditional governance systems. While traditional leaders in Bayung Gede play a vital role in the community, their authority and influence are often not recognized within the formal governance structures. This lack of recognition makes it difficult to integrate their knowledge and practices into policy discussions.

Furthermore, the rapid changes brought about by globalization, tourism, and market forces have created tensions between modern economic models and traditional ways of life. Some younger members of the community are more inclined to adopt modern, individualistic approaches to farming and governance, which sometimes conflict with the collective, community-oriented values of traditional practices. As such, there is a generational divide in the village regarding the acceptance and application of traditional knowledge.

Discussion

This study has provided a thorough examination of how traditional wisdom in Bayung Gede Village, Bali, plays a crucial role in shaping local policy, particularly in agriculture, environmental management, and community governance. The results highlight the persistence and resilience of traditional governance systems and agricultural practices, which are deeply ingrained in the cultural and spiritual fabric of the community. While these traditional knowledge systems have sustained the community for generations, the findings reveal the complexities of integrating them into contemporary policy frameworks, which often prioritize efficiency, technological innovation, and economic growth over cultural and ecological sustainability. This section discusses the key findings in relation to the broader literature, focusing on the role of traditional governance, the impact of traditional agricultural practices on sustainability, and the challenges of integrating traditional wisdom into modern governance systems.

The findings underscore the critical role that traditional governance systems, particularly the Desa Adat (customary village system), continue to play in Bayung Gede. This system, deeply rooted in Balinese cultural and spiritual beliefs, has proven to be an effective mechanism for local decision-making, community engagement, and resource management (Budarma, 2024; Saraswaty, 2024). The importance of these systems in ensuring social cohesion and maintaining environmental sustainability is well-documented in the literature. For instance,

Berkes (2018) has highlighted that traditional governance systems are often better suited for managing local resources sustainably because they operate within the cultural, social, and ecological context of the community. In Bayung Gede, the *kelian* desa (village leaders) and elders ensure that decisions align with the values of Tri Hita Karana, the Balinese philosophy of achieving harmony between people, nature, and the divine. These leaders are seen not only as decision-makers but also as custodians of local wisdom, guiding the community in ways that reflect the spiritual and ecological balance of the environment.

However, while traditional governance systems are respected within the community, they face significant challenges in a modern political and economic landscape that prioritizes centralized decision-making and economic efficiency. The interviews and observations conducted in this study suggest that the formal recognition of these traditional systems within the broader governance framework is limited. As discussed by Davis (2020), modern governance structures often marginalize indigenous knowledge systems, seeing them as outdated or inefficient. In contrast, this study suggests that traditional governance structures, when integrated into modern policy, could offer valuable insights into community-based decision-making and sustainable development practices. The participatory approach to governance that is central to Bayung Gede's Desa Adat system provides a model for more inclusive policy development, where the collective interests of the community are prioritized over individual or corporate interests.

The study's findings on traditional agricultural practices in Bayung Gede are significant, particularly in the context of the broader discussion on sustainability. Bayung Gede's agricultural practices, which emphasize organic farming, soil preservation, crop rotation, and water conservation through traditional irrigation systems, are a reflection of the village's deeply held ecological values. The continued use of these practices demonstrates the community's commitment to sustainability, and the data suggests that these methods have been highly effective in maintaining soil fertility, enhancing biodiversity, and promoting social cohesion.

The reliance on organic fertilizers and sustainable farming practices aligns with the concept of agroecology, which emphasizes the integration of ecological principles with agricultural practices (Altieri, 2018). Studies have shown that traditional farming systems like those in Bayung Gede contribute significantly to ecological sustainability by minimizing the use of chemical inputs and promoting biodiversity (Berkes, 2018). In Bayung Gede, the use of natural fertilizers such as cow dung, as well as the communal management of irrigation systems, are key aspects of a farming system that has been able to withstand the pressures of modern agriculture. One participant noted, "We use natural fertilizers, and the soil remains fertile because we respect the land." This practice contrasts sharply with the high-input, chemical-intensive farming systems prevalent in many other regions, which often result in soil degradation and reduced agricultural productivity (Pretty, 2018).

Despite these positive impacts, the integration of these traditional practices into contemporary agricultural policies remains a challenge. The policies formulated at the national and regional levels often prioritize high-yield, mechanized farming methods that rely on chemical inputs. This approach, while increasing short-term agricultural productivity, overlooks the long-term sustainability of the land and local ecosystems. As highlighted in previous research by Mulyani (2021), such policies often fail to recognize the importance of indigenous knowledge in fostering resilience to environmental stress and ensuring long-term sustainability. The findings of this study suggest that traditional agricultural practices in Bayung Gede could serve as a model for more sustainable agricultural policies that integrate ecological and community-based approaches, offering a more balanced solution to the challenges of food security and environmental degradation.

A central theme of this study is the challenge of integrating traditional wisdom into modern policy frameworks. While traditional knowledge in Bayung Gede is widely respected, its incorporation into formal policy-making processes is limited. Interviews with local government officials and community members revealed a growing recognition of the value of traditional knowledge, yet the formal structures of policy-making often exclude it. One local government official remarked, “While we respect the wisdom of our elders, we still focus on modern approaches to development that do not always consider the traditional ways.” This sentiment highlights the tension between modern development paradigms, which prioritize technological solutions and economic growth, and the community-based, holistic approach embodied in traditional knowledge systems.

The integration of traditional wisdom into modern governance structures requires overcoming several barriers. One of the main obstacles is the lack of formal recognition of traditional governance systems within the national and regional legal frameworks. While the Desa Adat system operates alongside formal government structures, it is often not officially acknowledged in policy discussions, limiting its influence on decision-making. This disconnect between traditional governance and formal policy-making is not unique to Bayung Gede but is a widespread issue in many rural areas, where indigenous knowledge is often sidelined in favor of top-down, technocratic policies (Sutawan, 2019; Van Assche & Hornidge, 2023).

Furthermore, the rapid pace of globalization, tourism, and urbanization poses additional challenges to the preservation and integration of traditional knowledge. The increasing economic pressures from tourism and market-based agricultural models in Bali are shifting local priorities, especially among younger generations, who may see modern economic practices as more viable than traditional ones. As discussed by Tajuddin (2019), there is a growing generational divide between those who uphold traditional values and those who seek to modernize their practices for economic gain. The findings of this study suggest that policy-makers need to create inclusive frameworks that not only recognize the value of traditional knowledge but also ensure that modern development does not erode the cultural and ecological practices that have sustained rural communities for centuries.

The study also identified several challenges in the integration of traditional wisdom into modern policy frameworks. One of the main obstacles is the national and regional policy focus on economic growth and technological advancement, which often marginalizes community-based approaches to governance and agriculture (Sambodo et al., 2023; Nasution et al., 2025). These policies frequently overlook the ecological and social value of traditional knowledge systems, favoring large-scale, industrial solutions instead. As noted by the interviewees, the challenge lies in bridging the gap between top-down policies that prioritize technological solutions and bottom-up traditional practices that emphasize sustainability, community engagement, and cultural preservation.

To address these challenges, the study suggests that policies should be designed to be more inclusive of traditional knowledge systems. A key step in this process is fostering dialogue between traditional leaders, local communities, and government officials. By creating platforms for collaborative decision-making, policy-makers can ensure that local knowledge is not only acknowledged but also actively incorporated into policy planning and implementation. This approach has been successfully applied in other regions, as evidenced by the integration of indigenous knowledge in natural resource management in various parts of Indonesia (Tajuddin, 2019; Yanou et al., 2023; Buana & Mamonto, 2023).

Moreover, the study highlights the importance of education and awareness programs that bridge the gap between traditional wisdom and modern governance. Voter and

community education on the value of traditional practices, along with formal training for local leaders on policy-making processes, can help foster a more inclusive approach to governance. This would enable traditional knowledge systems to remain relevant and adaptive in the face of modern challenges, while ensuring the sustainability of local practices.

CONCLUSION

This study explored the integration of traditional wisdom in policy formulation in Bayung Gede Village, Bali, with a particular focus on agricultural practices, environmental management, and local governance. The findings reveal that traditional governance systems, deeply rooted in the village's cultural and spiritual beliefs, play a crucial role in managing communal resources and fostering social cohesion. The village's agricultural practices, which are based on sustainable, organic methods, have been effective in preserving the local environment and ensuring long-term agricultural productivity. However, these practices face challenges from modern policy frameworks, which tend to prioritize high-yield agricultural methods and economic growth over ecological sustainability.

The study emphasizes the importance of incorporating traditional knowledge into contemporary policy frameworks to promote more sustainable and culturally sensitive development strategies. While traditional wisdom is highly valued in Bayung Gede, it is not systematically integrated into the formal policy-making processes at the regional or national level. The research highlights the need for inclusive policies that recognize the value of indigenous knowledge and create spaces for dialogue between traditional leaders and government officials. This study contributes to the existing body of knowledge by providing insights into the practical applications of traditional wisdom in modern governance and policy formulation. It suggests that traditional governance systems can offer valuable lessons for sustainable development, particularly in rural and indigenous communities. Future research could explore how other communities in Bali or Indonesia integrate traditional knowledge into modern policies and investigate the long-term impact of such integration on environmental sustainability and community resilience.

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