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# Community Attitude and Behavior Toward Village Forest Management Plan in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia

(Sikap dan Perilaku Masyarakat terhadap Rencana Pengelolaan Hutan Desa di Sulawesi Tengah)

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# **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

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KATA KUNCI sikap, prilaku, pengelolaan, hutan desa

# ABSTRACT

Social forestry programs, including village forest schemes, were anticipated to increase the local community income, but the implementations often differed from the plans. Therefore, this research aimed to determine the attitude and behavior of LPHD members toward village forest management in Central Sulawesi by analyzing their beliefs and evaluation values. The results showed that the forest attribute had the highest value, which indicated that the village forest offered numerous opportunities to enhance the community's welfare. In addition, the attitude value was consistent with the behavior analysis, resulting in a positive value of 0.74. This value indicated that LPHD members agreed with the village forest management in Central Sulawesi and actively participated in the implementation.

# INTISARI

Program Perhutanan Sosial yang salah satunya adalah skema hutan desa yang diharapkan dapat meningkatkan pendapatan masyarakat lokal. Namun, seringkali pelaksanaan pengelolaan hutan desa berbeda dengan yang direncanakan. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui sikap dan prilaku anggota LPHD terhadap rencana pengelolaan pengelolaan hutan desa di Sulawesi Tengah dengan mengkaji nilai kepercayaan dan evaluasi terhadap perencanaan dan pelaksanaan pengelolaannya. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa atribut keberadaan hutan menunjukkan nilai tertinggi. Hal tersebut menunjukkan bahwa anggota LPHD percaya bahwa hutan desa memberikan banyak peluang bagi masyarakat untuk meningkatkan kesejahteraan. Nilai sikap ini konsisten dengan hasil analisis nilai perilaku yang bernilai positif sebesar 0.74 yang menunjukkan bahwa anggota LPHD setuju dan berpartisipasi aktif dalam pengelolaan hutan desa di Sulawesi Tengah.

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# Introduction

The Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation No.9 of 2021 defined village forests as state forests without a right or permit attribute, managed by the village and utilized for its welfare. Therefore, the management should provide access for the community to sustainably utilize resources, particularly in protected and production forest areas. Village forest is one of the schemes of the Social Forestry policy to combat deforestation and degradation by involving the community in the management activities (Kumar 2015; Laksemi et al. 2019). The motivation behind the policy was to promote community legal access to state forests (Ramadhan et al. 2022) because it had led to unsustainable utilization of forest resources (Ragandhi et al. 2021). As a reference, around 80% of forest areas in Meghalaya, the state of India, are owned and managed by indigenous institutions and the local community (Miretal. 2022).

Communities often have limited participation in legal state forest management. Therefore, the village forest scheme became one of the government incentives to stimulate community participation, primarily through activities to improve their livelihood. Putting the community as the subject of development is crucial to facilitate their involvement in planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating forest dynamics, specifically within the scheme (Sadono 2013).

The development of the village forest consisted of three steps. The first step is conducting training and Focus Group Discussion activities to disseminate information about access rights, the responsibility of the village forest Management Institution (LPHD), and the benefits for stakeholders obtained from Forest Village. Second, the central government hand over the village forest permit (Minister of Forestry Decree) to the head of the regency and a decree on rights and responsibilities of the management by the Village-Owned Enterprises or LPHD to the provincial government. Third, preparation of planning documents, including village forest work and annual plans (Firnawati et al. 2021).

The village forest scheme in Central Sulawesi could improve the community's welfare. However, it depends on the attitude toward the village forest management plan (Guncoro et al. 2021). Perdana et al. (2021) suggested that the lack of human resources capacity hindered forest development and led to poverty surrounding the forest areas. The previous study indicated that the average LPHD institutional readiness fell in the medium category regarding rights clarity, organizational structure, human resource quality, and regulation availability. In contrast, the area security and funding source fell into the low category (Guncoro et al. 2021; Rachman et al. 2021). Meanwhile, the average institutional readiness of the LPHD is in the medium category.

This research aimed to analyze the LPHD members' attitudes and behavior toward the village forest management plan in Central Sulawesi. This research adopted the psychological approach using cognitive, affective, and conative methods to measure attitude and behavior (Chanifah et al. 2021; Sok et al. 2021). The attitude score consisted of the presence, involvement, and utilization attributes, while those for behavior consisted of environment, government, and life necessities. Comparing beliefs and evaluation scores could indicate the consistency of LPHD attitude and behavior toward the village forest plans (Putri 2019; Rossmann 2021; Andry Herawati et al. 2022).

#### **Material and Method**

## **Timeand Location**

The research duration was within six months, from June to November 2021. The locations of this

research were in village forests spread over five regencies in Central Sulawesi Province, consisting of:

- Sigi Regency, Lonca, Namo, and Tangkulowi village forest
- 2. Banggai Regency, Balean village forest
- 3. Touna Regency, Kajulangko village forest
- 4. Donggala Regency, Nupabomba village forest
- 5. Buol Regency, Air Terang, and Boilan village forest

### **Material and Tool**

This research used questionnaires to guide structured interviews, which employed pens, notebooks, cameras, and recorders.

## **Sampling Technique**

This research applied proportional random sampling to select the respondents. Around 80% of the LPHD members in each village forest became the respondents. Each LPHD member of the associated village forest had similar opportunities. This study interviewed 181 respondents out of 217 LPHD members in five village forests. Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents in each village forest.

#### Attitude and Behavior Analysis

1. This research defined attitude as an expression of inner feelings, such as happiness or

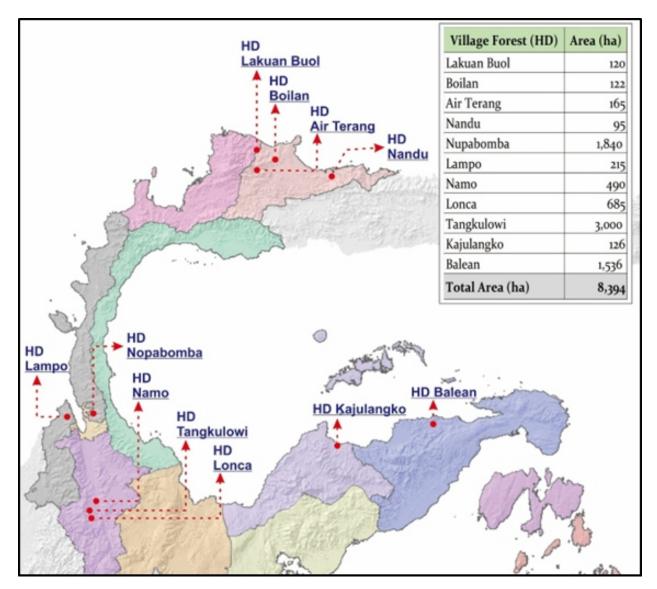


Figure 1. Study Location Map

#### Hendra Pribadi et al. (2023)/ Jurnal Ilmu Kehutanan 17(1):11-21

| Name of village forest | Number of LHPD members (person) | Number of respondents (person) |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lonca                  | 15                              | 13                             |
| Namo                   | 15                              | 13                             |
| Tangkulowi             | 25                              | 20                             |
| Kajulangko             | 20                              | 17                             |
| Balean                 | 25                              | 20                             |
| Air Tenang             | 25                              | 20                             |
| Boilan                 | 20                              | 17                             |
| Lakuan Buol            | 15                              | 13                             |
| Nandu                  | 17                              | 15                             |
| Nupabomba              | 25                              | 20                             |
| Lampo                  | 15                              | 13                             |
| Total                  | 217                             | 181                            |

Table 1. The distribution of respondents in each village forest

unhappiness, likes or dislikes, agreement or disagreement, never or often, and beliefs or disbeliefs toward the village forest management plan. Furthermore, it employed the Fishbein model to measure beliefs and their evaluation scores (Simamora 2008; Putri 2019)

### 1. Fishbein Model for Attitude Analysis

Attitude could be positive, neutral, or negative. The strength of beliefs regarding the outcomes of the performed behavior and the evaluation of the potential outcomes could influence the LPHD members' attitude toward the village forest management plan. In this research, behavioral beliefs referred to three attributes: presence, involvement, and utilization. Presence is the level to which the public is aware of the existence of village forests and LPHD. Involvement indicates the extent to which the community is involved starting from the determination, management, implementation, and utilization plans describing the degree to which the community benefits from the village forest. Each attribute had three questions, as shown in Table 2. The evaluation of the potential outcomes, referred to as attributes, consisted of three questions, as shown in Table 3.

The behavioral beliefs and evaluation scores ranged from one (do not know/strongly disagree/ never) to three (very knowing/agree/often). This study used the following formula to calculate the attitude of LHPD members toward the village forest management plan (Simamora 2008).

$$A_{b} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} b_{i} e_{i}$$

Remarks:

*A<sub>b</sub>* = the attitude towards the village forest management plan

- *b*<sub>i</sub> = the belief level that the management plan will lead to certain results
- $e_i$  = the Evaluation of the results obtained
- n = the number of relevant references is 181 (number of respondents)

#### 2. Fishbein Model for Behavior Analysis

The behavioral intention became the proxy of the LPHD members' behavior toward the village forest management plan, which could describe the conducted activities. This study defined behavioral intention as the seriousness of intent and purpose in managing a village forest. In addition, it used the following formula to calculate the behavioral intention of LHPD members toward the village forest management plan.

$$W_{1} = \frac{GMAb}{GMAb + GMSN}$$
$$W_{2} = \frac{GMSN}{GMAb + GMSN}$$
$$B \approx BI = W_{1}(AB) - W_{2} (SN)$$

| Attributes  | Questions  | I   | Beliefs score        | 2                                |
|-------------|--|---|----------------------|----------------------------------|
|             | Questions  | 1   | 2                    | 3                                |
| Presence    | Do you know the status of the nearby forest?<br>Do you know that a village forest exists in your area?<br>Are you aware of the existence of LPHD administrators? | Do not know<br>Do not know<br>Do not know | Know<br>Know<br>Know | Familiar<br>Familiar<br>Familiar |
|             | Do you participate in the village forest proposal plan development?  | Never                                     | Ever                 | Often                            |
| Involvement | Do you participate in the village forest management plan formulation?  | Never                                     | Ever                 | Often                            |
|             | Do you participate in the execution of the village forest management activities?   | Never                                     | Ever                 | Often                            |
|             | Did you utilize the forest before it was designated as a village forest?<br>After being designated to the village forest, did you take advantage                 | Never                                     | Ever                 | Often                            |
| Utilization | of the forest's existence?<br>In addition to using forests for your benefit, have you ever   | Never                                     | Ever                 | Often                            |
|             | participated in forest conservation efforts?   | Never                                     | Ever                 | Often                            |

| Table 2. The attributes, o      |                | с – С      | 1 1 | • •      | 1  | 1. ( | · · .1 | 1         | 1 .   | 1    | 1       |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------------|-----|----------|----|------|--------|-----------|-------|------|---------|
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|                                 |                |            |     |          |    |      |        |           |       |      |         |

Table 3. The attributes, questions, and scores for the evaluation of the potential outcomes in the Fishbein model

| Attributes  | Questions   | Evaluation score                       |                      |                |  |
|-------------|---|--|----------------------|----------------|--|
|             | Questions   | 1                                      | 2                    | 3              |  |
|             | Have you ever been exposed to the dissemination of the village forest proposal?   | Never                                  | Ever                 | Often          |  |
| Presence    | Have you ever received information about village forest designation in your location?   | Never                                  | Ever                 | Often          |  |
|             | Have you ever received information regarding LPHD's establishment?  | Never                                  | Ever                 | Often          |  |
|             | Are you in agreement with the village forest proposal and designation?  | Strongly disagree                      | Disagree             | Agree          |  |
| Involvement | Do you concur with the village forest management plan?<br>Are you in agreement with the execution of the village forest<br>management activities? | Strongly disagree<br>Strongly disagree | Disagree<br>Disagree | Agree<br>Agree |  |
|             | Do you believe that the forests' utilization before the designation of the village forests can improve welfare?                                   | Strongly disagree                      | Disagree             | Agree          |  |
| Utilization | Do you believe that the forests' utilization after the designation of the village forests can improve welfare?                                    | Strongly disagree                      | Disagree             | Agree          |  |
|             | Is it important to maintain forest sustainability?  | Strongly disagree                      | Disagree             | Agree          |  |

#### Remarks:

| В         | = the behavior of LPHD members            |
|-----------|---|
| BI        | = the behavior intention                  |
| Ab        | = the respondents' attitude towards the   |
|           | village forest management plan            |
| SN        | = the subjective norm                     |
| GMAb      | = Grand Median Ab                         |
| GMSN      | = Grand Median Subjective Norm            |
| W1 and W2 | = constants that show the relative weight |
|           | of each attribute                         |

The respondents' attitudes agreed with their behavior toward the village forest management plan when  $B \approx BI > 0$ . In contrast, the attitude disagreed with their behavior toward the village forest management plan when  $B \approx BI \leq o$ . The attitude (Ab) and the subjective norm (SN) influence the value of  $B \approx BI$  or behavior. Furthermore, attitudes are affected by two variables, the respondents' beliefs (bi) and the evaluation of the consequences (ei). Meanwhile, the respondents' normative beliefs towards other people or the surrounding environment (NBj) and motivation (MCj) influenced the subjective norm (SN). When the attitude is higher than the subjective norm, the respondents agreed with their behavior toward the village forest management plan. Otherwise, the respondents disagreed with their behavior toward the village forest management plan. Subjective norm was one of the components in measuring behavior. It was the driving factor formed from normative beliefs and motivations toward village forest management plan, including environment, government, and life necessities. This study defined the environment as the degree to which the public had confidence in determining village forest and LPHD. Regarding ideas, management, and evaluation, the government was the extent to which the community decided to engage with the connected parties. Life necessities entailed the degree to which village forests could provide for the community's welfare. Each subjective norm consisted of three questions representing normative beliefs and motivation, as shown in Table 4, and the scores ranged from one (agree/often) to three (strongly disagree/never). This study used the following formula to calculate the subjective norm of LPHD members toward the village forest management plan (Simamora 2008).

$$SN = \sum_{j=1}^{n} (NB_j)(MC_j)$$

Remarks:

 SN = the subjective norm of LPHD members toward the village forest management plan
 NB<sub>i</sub> = the normative notion that personal

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|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------|-----------------|----------|-----------|--|
| Table 4. The attributes, o | illestions and | I SCOTES OF F | ne normative | nemer | SINT            | ie Fishn | ein mode  |  |
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| Attributes       | Ouestions   | Normativ          | e Beliefs Sc | ore   |
|------------------|---|-------------------|--------------|-------|
| Attributes       | Questions   | 1                 | 2            | 3     |
|                  | Did you believe that once designated, the village forests can prevent forest devastation?   | Strongly disagree | Disagree     | Agree |
| Environment      | Did you concur with the selection of LPHD members?  | Strongly disagree | Disagree     | Agree |
| Liiviioiinent    | Were you receptive to managing and protecting the potential of the village forests?   | Strongly disagree | Disagree     | Agree |
|                  | Did you concur with the government or other parties that assist<br>in the administration of the determination of the village forest?  | Strongly disagree | Disagree     | Agree |
| Government       | Were you receptive to collaborating with the government or<br>related parties on the administration of the village forest?            | Strongly disagree | Disagree     | Agree |
|                  | Regarding the evaluation of the village forest management, were you amenable to collaborating with the government or related parties? | Strongly disagree | Disagree     | Agree |
|                  | Could the presence of the village forest fulfill the requirements of domestic life?   | Never             | Ever         | Often |
| Life necessities | Before being determined as a village forest, did you rely solely on the forest for sustenance?  | Never             | Ever         | Often |
|                  | After being assigned to the village forest, did you depend entirely on it to survive?   | Never             | Ever         | Often |

| Table 5. The attributes, questions, and scores of the individual motivation in the Fishbein mode |
|--|
|--|

| Attributes       | Ouestions   | Individual Motivation Score |          |       |  |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------|-------|--|
| Attributes       | Questions   | 1                           | 2        | 3     |  |
|                  | Could you offer advice on village forest settings?  | Strongly disagree           | Disagree | Agree |  |
|                  | Could you provide members of LPHD with advice?  | Strongly disagree           | Disagree | Agree |  |
| Environment      | Could you provide village forest management advice?   | Strongly disagree           | Disagree | Agree |  |
|                  | Would the government or related parties assist with the administration of the village forest? | Strongly disagree           | Disagree | Agree |  |
| Government       | Would the government or associated parties assist with the evaluation of the village forest?  | Strongly disagree           | Disagree | Agree |  |
|                  | Would the government or parties clarify plans to support the village forests?                 | Strongly disagree           | Disagree | Agree |  |
|                  | Did the government suggest the establishment of the village forest to improve welfare?        | Strongly disagree           | Disagree | Agree |  |
| Life necessities | Could community members suggest the village forest management to improve welfare?             | Strongly disagree           | Disagree | Agree |  |
|                  | Did members of LPHD advise you to engage in village forest management to improve welfare?     | Strongly disagree           | Disagree | Agree |  |

(organizational) references desire the attitude subject to perform from action

- MC<sub>i</sub> = individuals' motivation to follow the recommendations of personal and group references
- n = the number of relevant references is 181
   (number of respondents)

# **Result and Discussion**

# Village forest in Central Sulawesi

Village forests in Central Sulawesi consisted of production (45%), protected (28%), and limited production (27%) forests. The community realized that forests played crucial roles in maintaining the hydrological system and ecosystem functions and providing tangible benefits. However, the community could only utilize non-timber forest products, such as bamboo, rattan, pine resin, honey, and copal. The main activities of village forests in Buol and Tojo Una-Una Regencies were planting and securing the forest areas. There were no community activities to utilize the village forest products for their livelihood. Table 6 summarizes the size and forest types of village forests in Central Sulawesi.

The main activities in the village forest were rehabilitation to improve the condition of previously critical lands. The community utilized timber for construction (fences and poles) and non-timber forest products or NTFPs (honey, rattan, and copal). Several village forests also hosted minerals, rivers, and waterfalls that could become energy sources, environmental services, and ecotourism areas.

#### Village forest management plan

The village forest management plan covered 8 to 9 years of activities, as shown in Table 7. The interviews revealed that the most prominent conservation activities in the village forest included site checks, land preparation, nurseries, and planting. Meanwhile, protection and security activities consisted of boundary marking, patrolling, and zoning. The cultivation activities included seedling production, planting, tending, harvesting, post-harvest processing, and marketing the products of multipurpose tree species. These included Bambuseae sp, Coffea, Gnetum gnemon Linn, Durio zibethinus, Lansium parasiticum, Calamus, Arenga pinnata, Areca catechu L, Gnetum gnemon, and Hevea brasiliensis. The NTFPs contributed to respondents' income but were not the primary source of income. Furthermore, the village forest should provide opportunities for the community to improve their livelihood. The traditional utilization of forests resulted in an insignificant contribution to their income (Samsudin & Wanitaningsih 2019).

| Regency      | Districts     | Village forest | Forest types               | Area (ha) |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Sigi         | Kulawi        | Namo           | Protected Forests          | 490       |
|              |               | Lonca          | Protected Forests          | 685       |
|              |               | Tangkulowi     | Protected Forests          | 3,000     |
| Tojo Una-una | Ampana Tete   | Kajulangko     | Production Forests         | 126       |
| Banggai      | Lobu          | Balean         | Limited Production Forests | 1,536     |
|              | Tiloan        | Air Terang     | Production Forests         | 165       |
| Buol         |               | Boilan         | Production Forests         | 122       |
| Duoi         | Laksa         | Lakuan Buol    | Production Forests         | 120       |
|              | Gadung        | Nandu          | Production Forests         | 95        |
| Donggala     | Tanantovea    | Nupabomba      | Limited Production Forests | 1,840     |
| Duiggaid     | Banawa Tengah | Lampo          | Limited Production Forests | 215       |
|              |               | Total          |                            | 8,394     |

Table 6. The size and forest types of the village forest in Central Sulawesi

| Activity plan                                   | Description of activities   |
|---|---|
| Forest Conservation, Protection and Observation | Conservation<br>Protection and Observation  |
| Utilization and Collection NTFPs                | Cultivated Forests<br>Harvest of NTFPs  |
| Utilization of Environmental Services           | Nature and Waterfall Tour<br>Camping Ground<br>Trekking tour<br>Homestay Management<br>Treehouse Tour   |
| Institutional development                       | Capacity Development<br>Discuss Village forest Development<br>Annual Meeting LPHD<br>Monitoring and Evaluating forest village sceme<br>Coordination and communication with the government |

| Table 7. The activity | plans of the village forests in | Central Sulawesi |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
|                       |                                 |                  |

#### Attitude toward village forest management plan

The LPHD prepared the village forest management plan well based on observations and interviews. This situation was the case in the existence of village regulations governing forest management and the preparation of short-term and long-term planning reports. The plans involved LPHD members and the community surrounding the village forest. The analysis of LHPD members' attitudes toward the village forest management plan resulted in differences between the beliefs and evaluation average scores, as shown in Table 8.

Table 8 indicated that the total score of LHPD members' attitudes toward the village forest management plan was 17.41. In the behavior beliefs and evaluation, the presence attribute had the highest score of 2.80 and 2.80, respectively. These indicated that the LPHD members believed and perceived that the presence of the village forest provided many opportunities for welfare improvement. These beliefs and evaluations resulted in consistent positive scores regardless of the benefits from the village forest, such as in Buol and Tojo Una-Una Regencies. Granting permits to the community could secure long-term access to state forest lands, stimulate investments in land, and provide opportunities to diversify household income sources, including from NTFPs and ecotourism (Roy et al. 2021).

The average behavioral beliefs and evaluation involvement scores were 2.00 and 2.00, respectively. These scores indicated that the LPHD members were actively involved. However, they only partially participated in preparing the village forest proposal, plan report, and management activities. The average behavioral beliefs and evaluation utilization scores were 2.68 and 2.08, respectively. These scores indicated that the respondents benefitted from the forest before and after its designation as a village forest. However, these benefits did not necessarily improve welfare.

#### Behavior toward village forest management plan

Less-educated farmers tended to expand their agricultural lands to forest areas to increase income

Table 8. The scores of LHPD members' attitudes toward village forest management plan in Central Sulawesi

| Attribute   | The average score of Beliefs (bi) | The average score of Evaluation (ei) | Attitude score (Aij) |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Presence    | 2.80                              | 2.80                                 | 7.84                 |
| Involvement | 2.00                              | 2.00                                 | 4.00                 |
| Utilization | 2.68                              | 2.08                                 | 5.57                 |
|             | Т                                 | 17.41                                |                      |

| Attribute        | The average score of Normative Beliefs (NB <sub>j</sub> ) | The average score of Individual Motivation (MC <sub>j</sub> ) | Subjective Norm (SN) |
|------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| Environment      | 2.80  | 2.36  | 6.61                 |
| Government       | 2.64  | 3.00  | 7.92                 |
| Life Necessities | 1.72  | 1.24  | 2.13                 |
|                  | Т   | 16.66   |                      |

Table 9. The score of the subjective norm of the LPHD members towards village forest management plan in Central Sulawesi

even though they were aware of the access or land legality risks (Jaya et al., 2020). The community surrounding the forest areas played crucial roles in the Social Forestry program, specifically in Social Forestry and village forest schemes. The Social Forestry revitalization aimed to promote broader impacts of forest management, primarily on household income and food security (Umar et al. 2021; Pribadi et al. 2021). This study defined community behavior as individual involvement in decision-making and physical activities, including permit acquisition, resource utilization, and evaluation.

According to Table 9, the score of the subjective norm of the LPHD members towards the village forest management plan in Central Sulawesi was 16.66. The average normative beliefs and individual motivation environment scores were 2.80 and 2.36, respectively. The respondents believed in the village forest establishment and LPHD management but were not interested in providing advice on the management plan. The average normative beliefs and individual motivation government scores were 2.64 and 3.00, respectively. The respondents disagreed with the determination of the village forest because the area designated was different from the proposed areas for the village forest. However, the community was motivated to participate in activities conducted by the government related to social forestry.

The average normative beliefs and individual motivation life necessities scores were 1.72 and 1.24, respectively. The respondents had not utilized the village forest as their primary income source because they still owned or managed large land areas without assistance.

Behavior was an action taken by the LPHD members resulting from the overall scores of attitude and subjective norm. Furthermore, the attitude and subjective norms created the LPHD members' behavior toward the village forest management plan. The following was the calculation of behavior using the Fishbein model.

$$GMAb = \frac{\text{Total score of Beliefs + Total score of Evaluation}}{2 \text{ x Attribute}} = \frac{1354 + 1245}{2 \text{ x } 3} = 433$$

$$GMSN = \frac{\text{Total score of Normative Beliefs + Total score of Individual Motivation}}{2 \text{ x Attribute}} = \frac{1296 + 1195}{2 \text{ x } 3} = 415$$

$$W1 = \frac{\text{GMAb}}{\text{GMAb} + \text{GMSN}} = \frac{433}{433 + 415} = 0.51 = 51\%$$

$$W2 = \frac{\text{GMSN}}{\text{GMAb} + \text{GMSN}} = \frac{415}{433 + 415} = 0.49 = 49\%$$

$$\text{Therefore, B} \approx \text{BI} = W1 \text{ (AB) - W2 (SN)}$$

$$= 0.51(17.41) - 0.49(16.66)$$

$$= 8.89 - 8.15$$

$$= 0.74$$

The analysis resulted in a behavior score B≈BI of 0.74, which meant a positive or more than zero. Furthermore, the behavior of LPHD members was in agreement with attitude, and it positively impacted the village forest. The LPHD members and the relevant government should maintain the factors that influence attitude and behavior while paying close attention to the dimensions of belief, evaluation, normative beliefs, and individual motivation on the village forest scheme's attributes. According to (Laksemi et al. 2019), positive community behavior could contribute to sustainable village forest management and improve community welfare. However, this was not always the case. It depends on social variables, economic status, education, and public image. The high community participation could lead to the high economic value of forests. However, the high economic value of forests could not guarantee sustainable forest management, mainly because of a direct mismatch of economic benefits (Yulihartika 2017; Rohmayanto et al. 2019; Jabbar et al. 2021).

## Conclusion

The total area of village forest in Central Sulawesi is 8,394 ha, with a high potential for community welfare improvement. The analysis of attitudes toward the village forest management plan showed that the LPHD members had high expectations to improve community welfare. The analysis of behavior toward the village forest management and development activity plan resulted in a positive score (0.74), indicating that their attitude was in agreement with their behavior. Stakeholders participated actively in several village forest management initiatives, including nurseries, the utilization of NTFPs, and joint gatherings.

Concerning the limitations, this research did not compare the community behavior toward the

management activity plan and the development of other social forestry schemes. However, this research was sufficient to answer the community's attitude and behavior toward the village forest management plan.

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