

Governance Socialization in Soriar Village, East Biak District

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ABSTRAK

This community service activity aimed to strengthen the understanding of village officials in Soriar Village, East Biak District, regarding good governance, and to support them in applying governance principles that balance formal state regulation with local wisdom, custom, and religious values. The methods used were lecture, discussion, and question and answer, targeting the village head, village officials, and the Village Consultative Body (Bamuskam). The activity was held on 18 May 2026 and involved 19 participants. Participants gained an understanding of governance covering both formal and informal dimensions, which is expected to encourage village administration that is effective, efficient, accountable, and oriented toward the welfare of the Soriar community.

INTRODUCTION

The village, as the smallest unit of government, holds a strategic role in administration and development. As the foundation of national development, the village plays a key role in community welfare through good governance (Hamim et al., 2021; Pardede et al., 2026). In the Papuan context, a village is not merely an administrative entity. It is a space for the social and cultural life of indigenous communities, rich in traditional values that include ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity. From this perspective, village governance must consider two dimensions at once: a formal dimension rooted in state positive law, and an informal dimension rooted in local wisdom, custom, and religious values.

Village governance under state positive law emphasizes good governance, which requires alignment among authority, regulation, duties and functions, hierarchy, and resource management (Tasik & Daerobo, 2024). In the context of villages in Papua, however, this dimension becomes more complex. Unlike the study by Tasik and Daerobo (2024), which focused on village governance following administrative division, governance issues in the Papuan context require a balance between positive law and local contextuality. Village governments in Papua face the complex task of integrating government regulation with the local wisdom that lives within the community. Balancing formal and informal perspectives is key to achieving effective and equitable village governance.

Soriar Village in East Biak District is one such village where the administration of government still requires strengthened understanding of good governance. Preliminary observation found that Soriar village officials are more familiar with the formal regulatory and bureaucratic framework, while the dimension of local wisdom in decision-making and public service tends to be underarticulated. A socialization activity on governance was therefore needed, carried out under the title "Governance Socialization in Soriar Village, East Biak District."

The main problem underlying this activity is the limited understanding among Soriar village officials of good governance. Discussions with village officials revealed that village administration has largely proceeded on an ad hoc basis, without consistent reference to a structured governance framework. There was also insufficient understanding of how to balance formal state regulatory demands with the local wisdom, custom, and religious values that form an integral part of community life. In response, this activity offered a socialization program covering the concept of governance in the national and Papuan contexts, the relationship between ethnicity, culture, and religion in governance, formal and informal governance perspectives, aspects of administration, and a governance framework grounded in local wisdom.

The objectives of this activity were: (1) to provide Soriar village officials with knowledge of the concepts and principles of good governance; (2) to improve officials' understanding of the alignment between formal governance (state positive law) and informal governance (local wisdom, custom, and religion) in village administration; and (3) to encourage village governance oriented toward community welfare. The activity is expected to increase officials'

knowledge of good governance, strengthen their capacity to integrate formal regulation with local wisdom, and serve as a reference for further socialization on strengthening village governance in the East Biak region.

IMPLEMENTATION AND METHODS

The primary issue prompting this outreach activity is the lack of understanding among officials in Soriar Village, East Biak District, regarding good governance. Discussions with village officials revealed that village administration has thus far operated on an *ad hoc* basis, without fully adhering to a structured governance framework. Furthermore, there is insufficient understanding of how to balance formal state regulatory requirements with the values of local wisdom, custom, and religion; elements that are integral to the lives of the village community.

To address these issues, the solution proposed through this activity is to conduct an outreach session on governance in Soriar Village, East Biak District. The material presented covers governance concepts within the contexts of the State and Papua; the interplay of tribe, culture, and religion in governance; formal and informal governance perspectives; administrative aspects; and a governance foundation grounded in local wisdom.

This activity used two methods. The first was a lecture method, used to present the governance material prepared by the implementation team. The second was a discussion method, in which the presenters and participants engaged in dialogue on the condition of governance carried out by village officials in Soriar Village. The purpose of these methods was to build a general understanding of good governance and how local values can be absorbed into formal governance practice (Idris et al., 2020; Septiana et al., 2023; Zutiasari et al., 2020).

The activity proceeded through three stages. In the preparation stage, the implementation team coordinated with the village head and Soriar village officials to agree on a schedule, then prepared the materials, presentation media, and other equipment needed. The activity was held on 18 May 2026 at the Soriar village office, using a projector, microphone, and printed and digital materials, and involved 19 participants, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Participant Distribution

Category	Number of Participants
Village officials	11
Customary Religious Leaders	3
Community leaders	2
Total	3
	19

Nevertheless, many members of the community participated in the outreach activity. This underscores the residents' high level of enthusiasm for the activity currently being conducted.

In the implementation stage, the socialization began with a courtesy visit to the office of the Soriar village head to gather initial information on the condition of governance in the village and to discuss which parts of the material were most relevant to the local context. The event itself followed a fixed sequence: an opening remark and official opening by the village head, presentation of the governance material, discussion and question and answer, and closing. The material covered the concept of governance in the national and Papuan contexts; the relationship between ethnicity, culture, and religion in governance; formal and informal governance perspectives; aspects of governance, namely authority, regulation, duties and functions, hierarchy, and resources; and a governance framework connecting local wisdom, regulation, and welfare.

In the evaluation stage, a discussion and question-and-answer session was held to assess participants' understanding of the material presented and its contribution to strengthening governance in Soriar Village.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The socialization material was delivered through a lecture using a presentation slide deck. The presentation began with an explanation of the concept of governance within the broader framework of the state and the Papuan context, illustrating the relationship between the state as the highest entity and Papua as a region with distinctive ethnic, cultural, and religious dimensions in the administration of governance.

The activity began with a visit to the Soriar Village Head's office to gather preliminary information regarding the state of governance implemented by village officials and the village head. During the visit, a brief discussion was held with the village head and officials concerning the relevant material to be disseminated and applied within the context of Soriar Village, East Biak District.

1. Preparation Phase

In this preparation phase, the activity was scheduled for May 18, 2026. This stage also involved identifying the target participants for the dissemination session, comprising village officials, traditional leaders, and religious leaders. The agenda for the dissemination process was structured as follows:

- 1) Welcoming remarks by the Soriar Village Head and official opening of the event
- 2) Opening
- 3) Presentation of Material
- 4) Discussion and Q&A
- 5) Closing

The material then addressed two governance perspectives, formal and informal. The formal perspective refers to positive law issued by the state, while the informal perspective covers contextual norms, customary law, and religious values that apply within the community. The presentation began by explaining the concept of governance within the broader framework of the State and the specific context of Papua. Governance concepts in both contexts illustrate the relationship between the state; as the supreme entity, and Papua, a region characterized by unique tribal, cultural, and religious dimensions in the implementation of governance. Both perspectives need to be viewed together so

that village administration can run harmoniously and in line with the community's real needs.

2. Implementation of the Dissemination Session Phase

During the session, material regarding two governance perspectives (formal and informal) was presented. The formal perspective refers to positive law enacted by the state. Meanwhile, the informal perspective encompasses contextual norms, customary law, and religious values prevalent in the community. These two perspectives must be viewed simultaneously to ensure that village governance operates harmoniously and aligns with the community's actual needs.

The material then addressed the governance aspects that serve as pillars of administration: authority, regulations, main duties and functions, hierarchy, and resources. Clear authority, well-understood regulations, properly executed duties and functions, a respected hierarchy, and optimal resource management constitute the foundation for establishing good village governance. The final part of the material presented a governance concept linking local wisdom, regulations, and well-being. Local wisdom serves as a source of values informally connected to the governance framework, whereas regulations are formally linked. Both converge on the same ultimate goal: achieving the well-being of the village community.

The material went on to discuss the aspects of governance that form the pillars of good governance, namely authority, regulation, duties and functions, hierarchy, and resources. Understanding these five aspects is essential for village officials to carry out their functions along the appropriate lines (Salma et al., 2025; Wika, 2025). Clear authority, understood regulation, well-executed duties and functions, respected hierarchy, and optimal resource management form the foundation for good village governance.

The final part of the material presented a governance concept linking local wisdom, regulation, and welfare. Local wisdom was positioned as a source of value connected informally to the governance framework, while regulation is connected formally. Sawir (2025) explains that integrating local wisdom with formal government systems can improve service quality and sustain public trust because it draws on local values. Silo et al. (2022) expressed the same thing, the cultural values of local communities which have been a reference for the mindset and behavior of local communities are integrated into governance practices. Without such integration, governance implementation is unlikely to yield significant impact. A comprehensive understanding of local values plays a crucial role in aligning the administration of local government in Papua with the local socio-cultural context. Both paths lead to the same ultimate goal, namely the welfare of the village community.

Figure 1. Conduct of the outreach session on "Formal and Informal Perspectives in Government Governance" by the community service implementation team.



Evaluation Phase

The evaluation stage featured a discussion and Q&A session. Participants showed great enthusiasm, actively asking questions and sharing their experiences. Topics raised included how to address conflicts between customary rules and government regulations, as well as the mechanisms for formulating village programs that involve customary and religious leaders. The implementation team explained that these two dimensions need not be in conflict; they noted that both could be integrated into the village deliberation process based on the principle of mutual respect.

In the evaluation stage, a discussion and question-and-answer session was held. Participants were highly engaged in asking questions and sharing their experiences. Questions raised included how to address conflicts between customary rules and government regulation, and how to design a mechanism for drafting village programs that involves customary and religious leaders. The implementation team explained that the two dimensions do not necessarily conflict with one another and can be integrated through village deliberation grounded in mutual respect.

Participants also noted that the socialization broadened their understanding of the importance of a village planning document that integrates local wisdom with the national regulatory framework. Djojosoekarto et al. (2012) argue that a central issue across much of Papua is insufficient attention to local values within formal systems, which often produces tension in service delivery and weakens community support for governance. Sharing resources and authority between leadership is a middle way to achieve mutual understanding of values, both local and formal values. This is in line with the findings of Salma et al. (2025) which revealed the existence of local leadership synergy in implementing Special Autonomy (Otsus) governance at the village level. In this synergy, the village head plays the role of a transformational leader who translates policies according to the local context, traditional leaders play a role in strengthening social capital and cultural legitimacy, while religious leaders contribute to instilling moral values in the collaborative governance process.

Within the framework of Special Autonomy, successful implementation is determined by the integration of formal and informal leadership, which together shape an innovative governance model grounded in customary values, religious morality, and principles of participatory public service. Integrating national

regulation with local values allows village development programs to genuinely reflect the needs and identity of the Soriar community.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This socialization activity was carried out on 18 May 2026 in Soriar Village, East Biak District, under the title "Governance Socialization in Soriar Village, East Biak District." Its purpose was to build village officials' understanding of governance that integrates formal and informal dimensions. The objective of this activity is to provide village officials with an understanding of the importance of governance that integrates both formal and informal dimensions. The outreach session revealed a gap in Kampung Soriar between the understanding of formal regulations and the practice of governance rooted in local wisdom. It is hoped that this activity will enhance the officials' understanding and awareness, thereby fostering effective, accountable village governance that prioritizes community well-being.

An evaluation of the activity indicates a need for ongoing guidance to ensure that the knowledge gained by village officials is translated into daily governance practices. Such guidance should involve customary and religious leaders as partners to the village head in policy formulation; these leadership figures possess a form of social legitimacy that formal government structures lack. Consequently, capacity-building efforts for village officials must extend beyond administrative and regulatory aspects; At the same time, capacity building requires the ability to build communication and collaboration with local leadership structures that are rooted in Soriar Village.

Based on the outreach activities, this community service initiative recommends enhancing the capacity of village officials to understand and apply principles of good governance, thereby enabling village administration to align formal regulatory requirements with prevailing local wisdom. The findings also highlight the need for ongoing guidance and support for the village head, village officials, and the Village Consultative Body (Bamuskam) as the entities responsible for village governance. Furthermore, it is essential to establish a deliberative mechanism that engages traditional and religious leaders as strategic partners in decision-making, ensuring that village programs genuinely reflect the interests of all segments of the community in Soriar Village, East Biak District.

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