

Research Article

Analysis of Public Perceptions of the Government's Role in Increasing Community Participation: A Quantitative Approach

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Abstract: Government and government transparency on community participation, with government accountability as an intervening variable. The study used a quantitative approach based on Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM). Data were obtained through questionnaires distributed to the community of Maladum Mes District, Sorong City. The results show that government transparency and public perception of the government's role have a positive and significant effect on government accountability. In addition, government transparency, public perception, and government accountability have a positive and significant effect on community participation. The mediation test results show that government accountability partially mediates the effects of government transparency and public perception of the government's role on community participation. These findings confirm that increasing community participation depends not only on information disclosure and positive perceptions, but also on the extent to which the government is accountable to the public for its performance. This study offers theoretical implications for strengthening the concept of good governance and practical implications for local governments in designing participatory policies.

Keywords: Community Participation; Good Governance; Government Accountability; Government Transparency; Public Perception.

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1. Introduction

Community participation is a fundamental element in democratic and public interest-oriented governance. Governments at both the central and local levels have provided various participation mechanisms, such as development planning deliberations, public consultation forums, and community complaint channels. However, in practice, community participation still fluctuates and tends to be below optimal. This phenomenon reveals a gap between the government's efforts to encourage participation and the reality of community involvement in the field, indicating a problem with public perception of the government's role.

Various empirical data and reports in Indonesia show that public presence and involvement in the governance process are often symbolic. Certain groups still dominate public participation in public forums. In contrast, most of the public is passive, contributing little in terms of aspirations or oversight. This condition reinforces the assumption that the public does not yet fully view the government as an effective, responsive, and transparent actor in managing public policy.

Ideally, the government is expected to create effective public services that are responsive to public aspirations and transparent in its decision-making. However, the reality on the ground shows that there is still a gap between the expected service standards and the way they are implemented, as perceived by the public. This gap shapes diverse public perceptions

of the government's role, ultimately affecting public trust and willingness to participate actively. If this condition is left unchecked, the impact will not only be limited to low public participation, but also has the potential to reduce the quality of public policy and government legitimacy. Minimal public involvement can result in policies that are less responsive to public needs and weaken the principles of accountability and transparency in governance. Therefore, increasing public participation is an urgent need in order to strengthen the quality of democracy and development.

From an academic perspective, several previous studies have examined public participation and government performance separately. However, research specifically analyzing public perception of the government's role in determining public participation remains relatively limited, especially in the context of local government in Indonesia. In addition, there is a theoretical gap between the concept of public perception and the practice of public participation, where existing theories have not been able to fully explain the dynamics of the relationship between the two in diverse empirical contexts.

In line with recent research, current public administration studies emphasize the importance of a quantitative approach capable of testing relationships among variables simultaneously and measurably. This approach allows researchers to understand more comprehensively the influence of public perception on the role of government in encouraging community participation. The novelty of this research lies in integrating several dimensions of public perception into a single analytical model to explain community participation empirically.

Theoretically, this research is expected to enrich the field of public administration, particularly in the study of public perception and community participation. In practical terms, the results of this study can inform the government in formulating policies and strategies to increase community participation more effectively. Thus, this study uses a quantitative approach to analyze public perceptions of the role of government in increasing community participation, in an effort to provide empirical and practical contributions to the development of participatory governance.

2. Literature Review and Concept Development

Public Perceptions of the Role of Government

Public perception of the role of government is the community's subjective assessment of the government's ability, commitment, and actions in carrying out its service and development functions. Rumakat's (2025) research explains that public perception is shaped by direct experience in accessing public services and information about government performance. Positive perceptions arise when the community assesses that the government can work effectively, fairly, and in accordance with public needs. Furthermore, Syeftiani (2023) emphasizes that public perception reflects the level of public trust in the government, which is influenced by the transparency, responsiveness, and accountability of the apparatus. This perception is an important psychological factor that determines the public's attitude towards public policy. Meanwhile, Tauda (2025) states that public perception of the government's role is closely related to the legitimacy of power, whereby a government perceived to perform its role professionally will gain public support and trust. Positive public perceptions foster a social climate conducive to public involvement in governance and development (Rumakat, 2025; Syeftiani, 2023; Tauda, 2025).

Public perception of the role of government is a multidimensional construct that reflects the community's assessment of the government's performance, attitude, and commitment. This perception underpins public trust, which directly influences the community's level of participation. Indicators of public perception of the role of government include: (1) perceptions of the effectiveness of government performance, (2) perceptions of fairness in public services, (3) perceptions of the government's commitment to serving the community, (4) perceptions of the professionalism of the civil service, and (5) perceptions of the government's concern for the needs of the community.

Government Transparency

Government transparency is understood as the government's openness in providing relevant, accurate, and easily accessible public information to the community. Research by Hamzah et al. (2024) explains that transparency is a major prerequisite for democratic governance, as it allows the community to understand the decision-making process and the use of public budgets. Transparency encourages the community to understand the role of government more objectively. Furthermore, Madinah (2025) emphasizes that government

transparency, particularly in budget management and development programs, functions as a social control mechanism that allows the public to be involved in monitoring public policy. When information is widely disclosed, the public feels involved and valued.

Meanwhile, Nugroho and Pratama (2022) view transparency as a government communication strategy to build public trust. Consistent information disclosure will reduce public suspicion of the government and strengthen the relationship between the state and its citizens (Hamzah et al., 2024; Madinah, 2025; Nugroho & Pratama, 2022). Government transparency not only serves as an administrative obligation but also as a strategic instrument in building trust and increasing public participation in the governance process. Indicators of government transparency include: (1) budget transparency, (2) accessibility of public policy information, (3) clarity of government program information, (4) transparency of decision-making processes, and (5) availability of public accountability reports.

Government Accountability

Government accountability is defined as the government's obligation to be accountable to the public for every policy, program, and use of public resources. Tauda (2025) explains that accountability is a key principle of good governance, requiring the government to act transparently, comply with regulations, and be held accountable to the public. Accountability is a measure of the government's integrity and credibility. Nuri's (2024) research emphasizes that accountability extends beyond financial reporting to include performance and policy accountability. An accountable government will find it easier to gain public trust because its policies can be justified rationally. Meanwhile, Vidyasari and Suryono (2022) state that government accountability strengthens the relationship between the government and the public, because the public feels they have the right to assess and monitor the government's performance. Strong accountability encourages the public to actively participate in the development process (Tauda, 2025; Nuri, 2024; Vidyasari & Suryono, 2022).

Government accountability is a mechanism for ensuring that governance is carried out in accordance with the public interest and democratic principles. Indicators of government accountability include: (1) clarity of budget expenditure reports, (2) mechanisms for evaluating government performance, (3) follow-up on oversight findings, (4) compliance with laws and regulations, and (5) transparency of policy evaluation results.

Community Participation

Public participation is defined as the active involvement of citizens in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public policies. Sari and Wibowo (2023) explain that public participation is a tangible manifestation of democracy, in which the public is not only the object of policy but also the subject that helps determine the direction of development. Participation allows the public's aspirations to be accommodated more fairly. Furthermore, Rahman (2023) states that community participation is influenced by the level of trust in the government and the perception that citizen involvement will have a real impact. Without this trust, participation tends to be passive or symbolic. Meanwhile, Putra (2024) emphasizes that community participation serves as a mechanism of social control over the government and a means of community empowerment in local development. High participation reflects a healthy relationship between the government and the community (Sari & Wibowo, 2023; Rahman, 2023; Putra, 2024).

Community participation can be concluded as an important indicator of the success of democratic and participatory governance. Indicators of community participation include: (1) attendance at public forums, (2) providing advice and input, (3) involvement in decision-making, (4) contribution of resources to development activities, and (5) community oversight of government policies.

Conceptual Relationship Development

Relationship Between Public Perception and Community Participation

Public perceptions of the role of government are closely linked to the level of community participation. When the community views the government as a competent, fair actor with a strong commitment to the public interest, trust is built, encouraging citizen involvement in various government processes. These positive perceptions convince the public that their participation, whether in the form of attendance at public forums, expression of aspirations, or involvement in decision-making, will be taken seriously by the government. Conversely, negative perceptions of the government's role can lead to public apathy and indifference toward public policy. In the context of democratic governance, public perception is a psychological factor that shapes the community's participatory attitude. Therefore, the more

positive the public perception of the government's role, the greater the likelihood that the community will actively participate in the development process.

H1: Public perception of the role of government has a positive effect on public participation.

The Relationship between Government Transparency and Public Participation

Conceptually, government transparency plays an important role as a prerequisite in encouraging public participation. Openness about policies, programs, and budget management allows the public to understand the direction and objectives of government actions. When information is conveyed clearly and is easily accessible, the public feels involved in the governance process, thereby fostering a sense of ownership of public policy. Transparency also reduces information asymmetry between the government and the public, which is often the cause of low participation. In a transparent government, the public has sufficient information to participate rationally and constructively. Therefore, transparency not only serves as an administrative obligation but also as a mechanism that encourages public involvement in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public policies.

H2: Government transparency has a positive effect on public participation.

The Relationship Between Government Accountability and Public Participation

Government accountability is directly related to public participation because it reflects the extent to which the government is accountable for its policies and performance. An accountable government demonstrates a willingness to explain itself, be accountable, and accept public evaluation. This condition fosters trust that public participation has real value and impact in the governance process. When the public sees clear accountability in both the use of the budget and the achievement of programs, they will be encouraged to become more actively involved as a form of social oversight. Conversely, low accountability can weaken participation because the public feels they have no control over public policy. Thus, accountability links government performance to public involvement in development.

H3: Government accountability has a positive effect on community participation.

The Relationship Between Public Perceptions and Government Accountability

Public perceptions of the role of government are also closely related to the level of government accountability as perceived by the community. Positive perceptions of the government's competence and integrity will strengthen the community's belief that it is capable and willing to be accountable for every policy it adopts. In this case, public perception serves as an evaluative mirror of government accountability practices. When the public views the government as professional and committed to the public interest, accountability practices will be considered stronger and more credible. Conversely, negative perceptions can obscure or weaken the meaning of accountability, even if formal mechanisms are in place. Therefore, public perception is an important factor shaping how government accountability is understood and assessed.

H4: Public perception of the role of government has a positive effect on government accountability.

The Relationship Between Government Transparency and Government Accountability

Conceptually, government transparency is the main foundation for accountability. Information disclosure allows the public to monitor, assess, and evaluate government actions objectively. Without transparency, accountability is only formal and difficult for the public to verify. Transparency in policy formulation, program implementation, and financial reporting provides space for the public to conduct social oversight. Thus, transparency strengthens accountability mechanisms because the government is required to explain and be held accountable for every decision it makes. This relationship shows that the higher the level of government transparency, the stronger the public's sense of accountability.

H5: Government transparency has a positive effect on government accountability.

3. Research Methodology

This study uses a quantitative approach with an explanatory research design to examine the relationships and influences among the research variables empirically. The quantitative approach was chosen because this study focuses on measuring public perceptions and attitudes expressed in numerical form, allowing for objective statistical analysis. This approach is commonly used in public administration and public policy research to test previously formulated hypotheses (Sugiyono, 2022). In addition, explanatory research is appropriate

because it explains the causal relationships among public perception, transparency, government accountability, and public participation, as developed in the conceptual model.

This research was conducted in Maladum Mes District, Sorong City. The selection of the research location was based on the consideration that the district is an area with heterogeneous community characteristics and is active in district-level development programs. The research was conducted over a period from collecting questionnaire data to processing and analyzing the data.

The population in this study was all 50 residents of Maladum Mes District. Given the relatively small population size, the sampling technique used was saturated sampling (census), in which all members of the population were used as research respondents. The use of saturated sampling is considered appropriate to increase the accuracy of the research results and minimize sampling bias, as recommended in quantitative research with a limited population (Sugiyono, 2022).

The main data source in this study was primary data obtained through the distribution of questionnaires to respondents. The questionnaire was compiled based on indicators of the research variables: public perception of the role of government, government transparency, government accountability, and community participation. The questionnaire used a five-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The use of a Likert-scale questionnaire aims to measure respondents' attitudes, perceptions, and assessments in a structured, quantitative manner (Widodo & Pratiwi, 2023). The questionnaire was distributed directly to respondents to ensure a high response rate and complete data.

The variable measuring public perception of the role of government is assessed through indicators of public assessment of the government's performance, professionalism, and concern. The variable of government transparency is measured through the openness of information on government policies, budgets, and programs. The variable of government accountability is measured through the clarity of accountability, reporting, and follow-up on policies and programs. Meanwhile, the variable of community participation is measured through the level of attendance, involvement in decision-making, provision of input, and community oversight of public policy. All indicators are adapted from previous studies relevant to local government in Indonesia (Tauda, 2025; Hamzah et al., 2024; Rahman, 2023).

The collected data were analyzed using Partial Least Squares (PLS)-based Structural Equation Modeling (SEM). The SEM-PLS technique was chosen because it can analyze relationships among latent variables simultaneously, even with a relatively small sample size. In addition, SEM-PLS does not require strict assumptions about normality, making it suitable for use in social research with a limited number of respondents (Ghozali & Latan, 2020). The analysis stages included evaluating the measurement model (outer model) through validity and reliability tests, and evaluating the structural model (inner model) to test the relationships between variables and the research hypotheses.

4. Research Results and Discussion

Validation Testing

This study examines the measurement quality of four key constructs: Public Perception of the Role of Government, Government Transparency, Government Accountability, and Community Participation. To ensure instrument validity and reliability, rigorous statistical tests were conducted, including the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO), factor analysis, Cronbach's Alpha, Composite Reliability, and Average Variance Extracted.

Table 1. Results of Validity and Reliability Tests.

Variable	KMO	Indicator	Component Matrix	Loading Factor	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability	AVE
Public Perception of the Role of Government	0.872	X1.1	0.875	0.864	0.903	0.928	0.720
		X1.2	0.848	0.841			
		X1.3	0.897	0.894			
		X1.4	0.830	0.825			
		X1.5	0.792	0.817			
Government Transparency	0.848	X2.1	0.853	0.867	0.875	0.908	0.664
		X2.2	0.877	0.844			
		X2.3	0.608	0.837			
		X2.4	0.860	0.802			
		X2.5	0.879	0.716			
	0.874	Z1	0.856	0.849	0.897	0.924	0.709

Variable	KMO	Indicator	Component Matrix	Loading Factor	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability	AVE
Government	0.790	Z2	0.823	0.830	0.844	0.889	0.616
		Z3	0.803	0.793			
		Z4	0.857	0.861			
		Z5	0.869	0.875			
		Y1	0.849	0.855			
Community Participation	0.790	Y2	0.777	0.771	0.844	0.889	0.616
		Y3	0.677	0.728			
		Y4	0.829	0.805			
		Y5	0.792	0.761			

The validity and reliability test results presented in Table 1 demonstrate strong psychometric properties across all four constructs. The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) values range from 0.790 to 0.874, all exceeding the recommended threshold of 0.6, indicating adequate sampling adequacy for factor analysis (Kaiser, 1974). All factor loadings surpass the minimum acceptable level of 0.5, with most indicators exceeding 0.7, confirming convergent validity (Hair et al., 2019).

The reliability assessment reveals excellent internal consistency across all variables. Cronbach's Alpha coefficients range from 0.844 to 0.903, substantially exceeding the 0.7 benchmark (Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994). Similarly, Composite Reliability (CR) values range from 0.889 to 0.928, all surpassing the recommended threshold of 0.7 (Fornell & Larcker, 1981). The Average Variance Extracted (AVE) values range from 0.616 to 0.720, all exceeding the minimum requirement of 0.5, indicating that each construct explains more than half of the variance in its indicators (Fornell & Larcker, 1981). Notably, "Public Perception of the Role of Government" demonstrates the highest reliability (Cronbach's Alpha = 0.903, CR = 0.928, AVE = 0.720), while "Community Participation" shows the lowest but still acceptable values (Cronbach's Alpha = 0.844, CR = 0.889, AVE = 0.616). Overall, these results confirm that all measurement instruments possess adequate validity and reliability for subsequent statistical analysis.

Discriminant Validity Test

Discriminant validity testing was conducted using cross-loading values. Indicators in a variable are considered discriminantly valid if they have a higher cross-loading value on the variable being measured than on other variables. The results of the validity test using cross-loading can be seen in the following table:

Table 2. Cross-Loading Results.

Indicator	Public Perception of the Role of Government	Government Transparency	Government Accountability	Community Participation
X1.1	0.864	0.034	0.557	0.516
X1.2	0.841	0.016	0.573	0.547
X1.3	0.894	0.068	0.630	0.576
X1.4	0.825	0.131	0.571	0.520
X1.5	0.817	0.265	0.728	0.635
X2.1	0.004	0.802	0.326	0.353
X2.2	0.106	0.867	0.480	0.486
X2.3	0.293	0.716	0.578	0.619
X2.4	-0.024	0.837	0.331	0.426
X2.5	0.028	0.844	0.439	0.375
Z1	0.555	0.469	0.849	0.629
Z2	0.679	0.359	0.830	0.711
Z3	0.610	0.344	0.793	0.547
Z4	0.598	0.524	0.861	0.770
Z5	0.625	0.622	0.875	0.711
Y1	0.690	0.385	0.729	0.855
Y2	0.436	0.474	0.611	0.771
Y3	0.513	0.627	0.699	0.728
Y4	0.440	0.470	0.561	0.805
Y5	0.489	0.289	0.509	0.761

Table 2 shows that the cross-loading values for each variable indicator are highest for the variable that should be measured, compared with the other variables. Based on the cross-loading results, the indicators in this study meet the criteria for discriminant validity.

Inferential Analysis

Data analysis was performed using Partial Least Squares (PLS), which aims to test the predictive relationships among constructs by assessing whether they are related or influence one another. The results of the analysis using Partial Least Squares (PLS) obtained the following outer model:

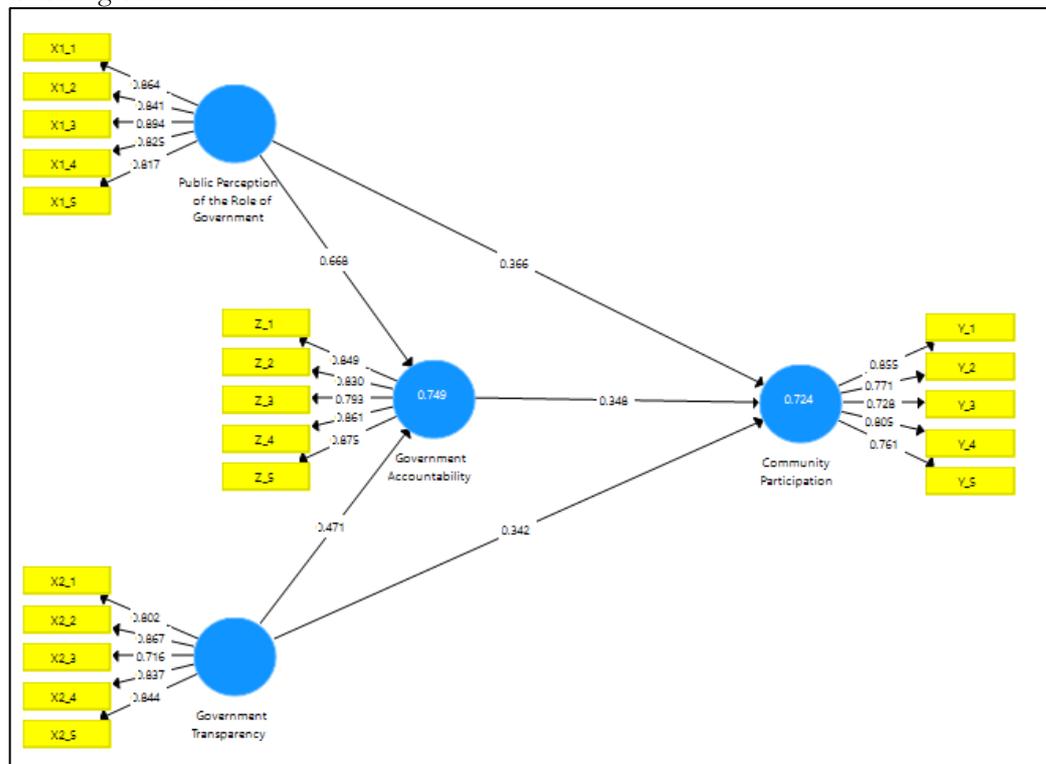


Figure 1. Inferential Analysis.

Structural Model (Inner Model)

Multicollinearity Test

Multicollinearity testing was conducted to assess whether the independent variables in the structural model were highly correlated. The test was conducted by examining the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF). If the VIF value is < 5, then there is no multicollinearity problem (Hair et al., 2019). The results of the multicollinearity test in this study are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Results of Multicollinearity Test.

Variable	VIF Value	
	Community Participation	Government Accountability
Government Accountability	3,989	
Government Transparency	1,904	1,017
Public Perception of the Role of Government	2,795	1,017

Based on Table 3, all VIF values are below 5, indicating no multicollinearity in this research model.

R-Square (R²) Value

The R-Square (R²) value measures how well the independent variables explain the variation in the dependent variable. The R² calculation results in this study are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. R-Square Test Results.

Dependent Variable	R-Square (R ²)	Adjusted R-Square	Description
Community Participation	0.724	0.706	Strong
Government Accountability	0.749	0.739	Strong

The R-Square (R²) value for the Community Participation variable is 0.724, indicating that the independent variables in the research model explain 72.4% of the variation in Community Participation. In comparison, the remaining 27.6% is explained by other variables outside the model. The Adjusted R-Square value of 0.706 indicates that the model's

explanatory power remains high. Based on the criteria (Ghozali, 2021), this value falls into the strong category.

Furthermore, the R-Square (R^2) value for the Government Accountability variable is 0.749, indicating that the independent variables in the model explain 74.9% of the variation in Government Accountability. In comparison, the remaining 25.1% is attributable to variables outside the model. The Adjusted R-Square value of 0.739 confirms the model's strength. According to the criteria (Ghozali, 2021), this R^2 value also falls into the strong category.

Hypothesis Testing (Path Coefficients)

Linear regression analysis was used to determine the effects of MSME Digitalization and Increased Promotion on Creativity Ability, and of MSME Digitalization, Increased Promotion, and Creativity Ability on Brand Awareness. The results of the linear regression analysis can be seen in the following table:

Table 5. Results of the Regression Equation Model Analysis (Path Coefficients).

Variable Relationships	Original Sample (β)	Sample Mean	Standard Deviation	T Statistics	P Values
Government Accountability → Community Participation	0.348	0.331	0	2.497	0.013
Government Transparency → Community Participation	0.342	0.349	0.091	3.769	0
Government Transparency → Government Accountability	0.471	0.475	0.087	5.433	0
Public Perception of the Role of Government → Community Participation	0.366	0.380	0	2.93	0.003
Public Perception of the Role of Government → Government Accountability	0.668	0.658	0.075	8.89	0

Table 5 presents the path coefficients from the structural equation model analysis, revealing significant relationships among public perception of government role, government transparency, government accountability, and community participation. The results demonstrate robust statistical evidence supporting all hypothesized relationships, with T-statistics ranging from 2.497 to 8.89 and p-values at or below 0.013, indicating strong empirical support for the proposed theoretical framework.

Direct Effects on Community Participation.

Three variables demonstrate significant direct effects on community participation. Government accountability is positively and significantly associated with community participation ($\beta=0.348$, $T=2.497$, $p=0.013$), suggesting that stronger accountability mechanisms encourage citizens to engage more actively in community affairs. This finding aligns with the democratic governance literature, which posits that accountable institutions foster civic engagement by building trust and reducing perceived risks of participation (Norris, 2011). When citizens perceive that government officials are answerable for their actions, they are more likely to invest time and effort in collective action.

Government transparency shows a comparable positive effect on community participation ($\beta=0.342$, $T=3.769$, $p=0.000$). This highly significant relationship supports transparency theory, which argues that open government practices reduce information asymmetries and empower citizens to participate more effectively in governance processes (Grimmelikhuijsen, 2012). The strong T-statistic indicates robust empirical evidence that transparent government operations stimulate civic engagement by providing citizens with the information necessary to make informed decisions and hold authorities accountable.

Public perception of the role of government demonstrates the strongest direct effect among the three predictors of community participation ($\beta=0.366$, $T=2.93$, $p=0.003$). This finding suggests that citizens' beliefs about government responsibilities and legitimacy significantly shape their willingness to participate in community activities. According to social capital theory, positive perceptions of government effectiveness and legitimacy create favorable conditions for collective action by enhancing trust in public institutions (Putnam, 2000). When citizens view government as playing an appropriate and beneficial role in society, they are more motivated to collaborate in addressing community challenges.

Antecedents of Government Accountability

Two significant predictors of government accountability emerge from the analysis. Public perception of the role of government shows the strongest relationship with government accountability ($\beta=0.668$, $T=8.89$, $p=0.000$), representing the largest path coefficient in the entire model. The exceptionally high T-statistic (8.89) provides compelling evidence that citizens' perceptions of government legitimacy and functions profoundly influence accountability mechanisms. This relationship supports institutional theory, which emphasizes that organizational practices reflect societal expectations and normative pressures (DiMaggio & Powell, 1983). Governments perceived as having legitimate roles face stronger demands for accountability from their constituents.

Government transparency is a significant antecedent of government accountability ($\beta=0.471$, $T=5.433$, $p=0.000$). This substantial positive relationship indicates that transparent practices enhance accountability systems. The finding corroborates principal-agent theory, which suggests that transparency reduces information asymmetries between principals (citizens) and agents (government officials), thereby strengthening accountability mechanisms (Moe, 1984). Open information flows enable citizens to monitor government performance, detect misconduct, and demand corrective actions, ultimately reinforcing accountability structures.

Theoretical and Practical Implications

The model reveals both direct and indirect pathways through which variables influence community participation. The strong relationship between public perception and government accountability ($\beta=0.668$), combined with accountability's effect on participation ($\beta=0.348$), suggests a significant mediation pathway. Similarly, transparency's dual role in directly influencing participation ($\beta=0.342$) and indirectly affecting it through accountability ($\beta=0.471 \times \beta=0.348$) demonstrates the multifaceted nature of governance-participation relationships.

These findings have important implications for public administration practice. First, governments seeking to enhance community participation should prioritize building positive public perceptions through effective service delivery and responsive governance. Second, investing in transparency initiatives yields dual benefits: it directly encourages participation and strengthens accountability systems. Third, accountability mechanisms serve as a crucial mediating infrastructure that translates transparency and positive perceptions into active civic engagement (Yang, 2005).

The relatively balanced coefficients for the three direct effects on community participation (ranging from 0.342 to 0.366) suggest that accountability, transparency, and public perception contribute approximately equally to explaining the variance in participation. This finding underscores the importance of comprehensive governance reforms rather than singular interventions. Effective strategies for promoting community participation must simultaneously address multiple dimensions of good governance.

Mediation Test

The mediation test in this study was conducted using path analysis. The mediation test in this study was also determined using Partial Least Squares (PLS). The results of the path analysis on the effect of MSME Digitalization and Increased Promotion on Brand Awareness through Creativity are as follows:

Table 6. Indirect Effect of Mediation Test Results (Path Coefficient).

Mediation Relationship			Original Sample (β)	Sample Mean	Standard Deviation	T Statistics	P Values
Government Transparency	→	Government Accountability	0.164	0.159	0.076	2.169	0.031
Government Accountability	→	Community Participation					
Public Perception of the Role of Government	→	Government Accountability	0.232	0.218	0	2,389	0.017
Government Accountability	→	Community Participation					

Table 6 shows that the mediation test produced a t-statistic path coefficient of 2.169 ($p = 0.031$) for the indirect effect of Government Transparency on Community Participation through Government Accountability. This value indicates that the t-statistic exceeds 1.96 and the p-value is less than 0.05. This result indicates that Government Accountability significantly mediates the effect of Government Transparency on Community Participation and serves as an intervening variable. The mediation is partial, as both the direct effect of Government Transparency on Community Participation and the indirect effect through Government Accountability are significant.

Furthermore, the indirect effect of Public Perception of the Role of Government on Community Participation through Government Accountability produced a t-statistic of 2.389 ($p = 0.017$), which met the significance criteria ($t > 1.96$, $p < 0.05$). This indicates that Government Accountability significantly mediates the influence of Public Perception of the Role of Government on Community Participation and acts as a partial intervening variable, because both its direct and indirect effects are significant.

Discussion

The results of this study confirm that government accountability plays a strategic role in explaining the relationships among public perception of government's role, government transparency, and community participation in Maladum Mes District, Sorong City. All hypotheses proposed in this study are empirically supported, indicating that increased community participation is not determined solely by information disclosure and positive perceptions of the government, but also depends heavily on the level of accountability perceived by the community.

The analysis shows that government transparency has a positive and significant effect on government accountability. These findings are in line with the principle of good governance, which places transparency as a key prerequisite for public accountability (Tauda, 2025; Hamzah et al., 2024). In the context of local government in Sorong City, information disclosure related to policies, programs, and budget management strengthens the community's ability to assess and monitor government performance, thereby increasing perceived accountability.

In addition, public perception of the government's role has been shown to have a positive and significant effect on government accountability, with the highest path coefficient among the relationships. These findings reinforce the view that accountability is not only administrative in nature, but also perceptual and social. When the public perceives the government as professional, responsive, and committed to the public interest, accountability practices are considered stronger and more credible (Nuri, 2024; Vidyasari & Suryono, 2022). Furthermore, the study shows that government accountability has a positive and significant effect on public participation. These findings support the theory of democratic participation, which states that the public tends to be actively involved when they feel that the government is responsible and willing to be accountable for its policies (Putra, 2024; Rahman, 2023). Accountability creates a sense of trust that public participation has meaning and a real impact on the governance process.

On the other hand, government transparency and public perception of the government's role also have a direct, significant positive effect on public participation. Transparency provides the information base necessary for the public to participate rationally, while public perception serves as a psychological factor that encourages or inhibits citizen involvement. However, the magnitude of the indirect influence through accountability shows that transparency and public perception will be more effective in increasing participation when accompanied by clear accountability mechanisms.

The mediation test results confirm that government accountability partially mediates the effects of government transparency and public perception of the government's role on public participation. These findings indicate that transparency and positive perceptions provide the initial prerequisites, while accountability serves as a mechanism for transformation, converting trust and openness into tangible community involvement. Thus, government accountability plays a key intervening role in strengthening participatory governance.

5. Conclusion

This study provides compelling empirical evidence for the interconnected relationships among public perception of government role, government transparency, government accountability, and community participation. All hypothesized pathways were statistically significant, demonstrating the validity of the proposed theoretical framework. The analysis reveals that community participation is significantly influenced by three key factors: government accountability ($\beta=0.348$, $p=0.013$), government transparency ($\beta=0.342$, $p<0.001$), and public perception of government role ($\beta=0.366$, $p=0.003$). These relatively balanced coefficients suggest that each dimension contributes substantially to civic engagement.

The strongest relationship observed is between public perception of government role and government accountability ($\beta=0.668$, $p<0.001$), indicating that citizens' beliefs about

government legitimacy fundamentally shape accountability mechanisms. Additionally, government transparency significantly enhances accountability ($\beta=0.471$, $p<0.001$), suggesting a mediating pathway through which transparency indirectly influences participation. These findings underscore the importance of holistic governance reforms for promoting community participation. Policymakers should simultaneously strengthen transparency initiatives, enhance accountability systems, and cultivate positive public perceptions through effective service delivery. The results demonstrate that sustainable civic engagement requires comprehensive institutional improvements rather than isolated interventions. Future research should explore additional mediating mechanisms and contextual factors that may moderate these relationships across different governance settings.

This study emphasizes that local governments must strengthen information disclosure and accountability mechanisms to increase citizen participation. The findings show that transparency and public perception increase accountability, which in turn significantly encourages community involvement. Therefore, practical recommendations include preparing budget and program implementation reports that are published regularly, presenting information in an accessible and understandable format, holding public evaluation forums with measurable follow-up, and training officials to improve the professionalism of services. Participation performance indicators must be measurable (e.g., forum attendance, number of inputs, complaint response time) for continuous policy evaluation; this step is important for building public trust and legitimacy.

This study has several limitations that need to be considered when applying the findings to other contexts. First, the population and sample were limited to 50 residents of Maladum Mes District, so generalization is limited. Second, the cross-sectional design and reliance on self-report questionnaires limit the ability to assess causality and are prone to response bias. Third, although the model shows strong reliability and an R^2 , other variables, such as digital literacy, social capital, and sociodemographic factors, were not included. The next research agenda recommends conducting multi-location replication, longitudinal studies, field experiments, mixed-methods studies with in-depth interviews, and integrating administrative data to strengthen external validity and policy implications, as well as developing more sensitive and sustainable measurement instruments.

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