

An Analysis of The Causes Of Low Community Participation In Waste Management In Cimohong Village, Bulakamba District, Brebes Regency

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Abstract

Background. Waste management remains a serious environmental issue in rural areas, including in Cimohong Village, Bulakamba Subdistrict, Brebes Regency. Low levels of public awareness and participation in waste management have led to waste accumulation and environmental pollution, negatively affecting the community's health and social conditions.

Aims. This study aims to examine the level of public awareness and participation in waste management, identify the factors contributing to low community involvement, and analyze efforts to improve community-based waste management. This study employs Soetomo's theory of community participation, which encompasses the dimensions of planning, implementation, utilization of results, and program evaluation.

Methods. The research method used is a descriptive qualitative approach through interviews, observations, and documentation. The results indicate that public awareness remains low, as evidenced by the habit of indiscriminately discarding and burning waste, as well as by the lack of separation between organic and inorganic waste.

Result. The contributing factors include sociocultural, economic, and educational factors, weak institutional capacity, limited waste collection facilities, and insufficient environmental education.

Conclusion. Efforts undertaken include increasing public awareness, providing waste management facilities, and strengthening the role of village governments as well as community participation.

Keywords: Public Awareness; Community Participation; Waste Management; Rural Environment; Qualitative.



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INTRODUCTION

Waste management is regulated by Law No. 18 of 2008, which defines waste as solid material resulting from daily human activities or natural processes. This waste is categorized into two types: organic waste, which decomposes easily, and inorganic waste, which decomposes slowly. Low public participation in waste management poses a serious problem

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DOI 10.62885/polisci.v3i6.1212

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because it can lead to a wide range of negative impacts on both the environment and social well-being. One of the primary impacts is environmental pollution. Waste that is not properly managed tends to spread to various areas, both on land and in water bodies such as rivers and the ocean. This can degrade air, water, and soil quality, thereby threatening ecosystem sustainability and disrupting environmental balance.(Btari Parwitasari Saputra et al., 2023).

The Brebes Regency Environmental Agency (DLH) plays a strategic role in maintaining environmental cleanliness and sustainability, including waste management in rural areas. To date, waste management remains an environmental issue that has not been optimally addressed, particularly in villages where public awareness of cleanliness is still low. Researchers also conducted direct observations from 2024 to 2026. Cimohong Village, Bulakamba Subdistrict, Brebes Regency, is one of the areas experiencing an increase in household waste volume in line with growing community activities. According to 2020 local government data, the population of Cimohong Village was approximately 8,454. About 70% of the waste generated comes from households, while the remaining 30% originates from other sources such as industrial activities and traditional markets. The increase in population and community economic activities directly impacts the rising volume of waste produced daily.

According to an interview with the head of Cimohong Village, the village's waste management still faces several challenges. The temporary waste collection sites (TPS) are inadequate, the number of sanitation workers is limited, and the equipment and vehicles used for waste collection are also insufficient. As a result, some residents still dispose of their waste improperly or even burn it.

This situation is inconsistent with the provisions of Law No. 18 of 2008 on Waste Management, which emphasizes that waste management must be carried out in a systematic, integrated, and sustainable manner to benefit public health and preserve the environment. The Brebes Regency Government has also undertaken various efforts to strengthen waste management throughout the region, including at the village level, through Regional Regulation No. 2 of 2022 on Waste Management and Brebes Regent Regulation No. 43 of 2023 regarding the Brebes Plastic-Free Program (BESTIE).



Photo taken on February 14, 2026

Figure 1: Trash being burned on vacant land in the Cimohong Timur block near residential areas and vacant lots

The BESTIE program promotes waste management at the source through the concept of sorting, selecting, and processing at home (K. Putri & Setiawan, 2024). However, implementation on the ground has not been effective due to limited facilities and low community participation in supporting the policy. The Brebes Regency Environmental Agency (DLH) manages waste data showing annual waste volumes. Supporting data from 2017 indicate average daily waste per sub-district (e.g., Brebes 50,794 m³, Bulakamba 60,566 m³), with a total of 554,504 m³. More recent data is available through the Brebeskab Open Data portal, the Brebes Central Statistics Agency (BPS), and the Satu Data Indonesia portal, although some data may still refer to the 2017–2018 period. Additionally, the Kaliwlingi Landfill faces challenges as it is overwhelmed by receiving 150–200 tons of daily waste from the northern and central regions. Most residents of Cimohong Village still do not understand the importance of sorting waste by type and continue to dispose of waste in open areas such as rivers, roadsides, and vacant lots. This behavior not only causes environmental pollution but also adversely affects public health and degrades groundwater quality.

Based on these conditions, it can be concluded that waste management in Cimohong Village is not yet being carried out in accordance with the principles of environmental sustainability as stipulated in the relevant laws and regulations. One factor hindering the

effectiveness of waste management is the still-low level of community participation.(Putra & Sulismadi, 2024).

According to Soetomo, community participation refers to the active involvement of residents in every stage of development—from planning and implementation to the evaluation of programs aimed at improving their own well-being. He emphasized that participation is not limited to physical contributions or labor but also includes sharing ideas and thoughts, participating in decision-making, and taking responsibility for the programs being implemented. With this participation, the development process can proceed more effectively because the community acts as an active participant rather than merely an object of development.

In general, Soetomo argues that community participation takes several forms, namely: (1) participation in decision-making, which refers to the community's involvement in establishing policies or activity plans; (2) participation in implementation, which refers to the community's involvement in carrying out development programs or activities; (3) participation in the utilization of outcomes, namely the community enjoying and using the results of development programs; and (4) participation in evaluation, namely the community's involvement in assessing the success of a program or activity.

The research gaps identified in several previous studies include the following points. First, the studies were limited to the village context; previous research was generally conducted in urban areas or other villages, and thus did not specifically examine the social, cultural, and institutional conditions in Cimohong Village, Bulakamba Subdistrict, Brebes Regency. Second, the focus of previous research has been partial, as most studies have highlighted only technical aspects and community behavior, without comprehensively examining social, economic, educational, cultural, and institutional factors that contribute to low community participation in waste management. Third, these studies have not analyzed community participation comprehensively across the stages of participation.

Previous research by Suryani, E. (2020) indicates that low levels of community participation stem from a lack of environmental education and weak coordination by the village government, with the study focusing on the implementation phase of participation. Given this, this study aims to address this gap by conducting an in-depth examination of the various factors influencing low community participation in waste management, including social, economic, and institutional aspects, through a qualitative approach grounded in the local context.

In light of these issues and research gaps, the objectives of this study are: (1) to analyze the level of community participation in Cimohong Village in waste management at every stage, from planning and implementation to the utilization of results and evaluation; (2) to identify the factors causing low community participation, including social, economic, educational, cultural, and institutional aspects; and (3) to formulate strategic recommendations to increase community participation in waste management through collaboration between the village government, the community, and other relevant parties to achieve good environmental governance.(Wahidin et al., 2025).

Another problem is the limited number of sanitation workers in the village. Due to the large population, garbage collection cannot be carried out regularly and comprehensively. As a result, garbage can still be seen piling up in some areas, especially around densely populated neighborhoods. This situation further degrades the environment and reduces the village's cleanliness and aesthetic appeal. Additionally, the waste management system in Cimohong Village lacks an integrated approach that involves the entire community. Most sanitation activities are carried out only on an ad hoc basis through community service, without a fixed and sustainable schedule. The community generally views waste management as the sole responsibility of the village government, not a shared responsibility (Abdullah & Rahmatiah, 2026)).

The results of this study are expected to enrich the field of waste management research, particularly regarding the role of the community in shaping environmental policy. In practical terms, this study is also expected to serve as a reference for local and village governments in designing more effective strategies to increase community participation, provide adequate facilities, and foster sustainable environmental awareness. (Zulkarnen, n.d.). Thus, this study focuses on three main aspects, namely: (1) analyzing how the community of Cimohong Village manages waste; (2) identifying factors that hinder waste management; and (3) examining the level of community participation in supporting waste management activities in Cimohong Village, Bulakamba Subdistrict, Brebes Regency.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Definition of Waste

Waste consists of byproducts of human activities and natural processes that are no longer useful and are subsequently discarded as having no further value. Waste can be generated by various activities, including household, industrial, agricultural, and commercial

activities, as well as other sources. According to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, waste is the solid residue resulting from human daily activities or natural processes. Generally, waste consists of organic materials, such as food scraps and leaves, as well as inorganic materials, such as plastic, glass, metal, and paper.

Basically, waste can be classified into several types, namely:

1. Organic waste, which is waste that decomposes naturally, such as food scraps, vegetables, and leaves.
2. Inorganic waste, which is waste that does not decompose easily, such as plastic, glass, and cans.
3. Hazardous and Toxic Waste (B3), which is waste containing hazardous substances, such as batteries, medications, and chemical waste.

Definition of Participation

According to Talizuduhu, participation is defined as a person's involvement, both mental and emotional, in the decision-making process regarding a particular issue, accompanied by a personal commitment to carry it out. Meanwhile, in the book *Introduction to Anthropology: An Overview of Anthropology*.(Masyarakat et al., 2024) A community is defined as a group of individuals living together as a cohesive unit, maintaining ongoing relationships, and sharing common interests. In this context, low community participation in waste management is a serious issue because it can have widespread and detrimental impacts, both on the environment and on social welfare. Cimohong Village, Bulakamba Subdistrict, Brebes Regency, is one of the areas experiencing an increase in household waste volume in line with rising community activity.

Keith Davis argues that participation is an individual's mental (intellectual) and emotional (feeling) engagement within a group that motivates them to contribute to achieving shared goals, while also taking responsibility for those efforts. Meanwhile, Suherlan states that participation is the public's involvement in determining the direction, strategies, and development policies implemented by the government, as well as their engagement in bearing the burden and reaping the benefits of development. The objectives of the public.

According to Kelly (Abdullah & Rahmatiah, 2026) Initially, participation was intended to empower communities in efforts to combat poverty in developing countries. As economic growth increased and began to impact people's lives, they were then encouraged to take on a

more significant role in the development process.(K. Putri & Setiawan, 2024) This view holds that the primary objectives of participation are to involve the public in the decision-making process, provide opportunities for the public to voice their concerns, encourage active engagement, and reconcile various interests.

According to 2020 local government data, the population of Cimohong Village is approximately 8,454. Of the total waste generated, about 70% comes from household activities, while the remaining 30% comes from other activities, such as industry and traditional markets. Population growth and increased household economic activity directly contribute to the rising volume of waste produced each day.

According to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) and relevant regulations, effective waste management emphasizes a comprehensive approach from source to disposal, beginning with waste reduction efforts through the “reduce, reuse, recycle” concept at the source, followed by sorting, and culminating in the treatment of residual waste using technologies such as waste-to-energy and sanitary landfills. This approach also promotes the implementation of a circular economy and the active involvement of local governments and the public. The primary objectives are to end open dumping practices, reduce waste volume, and achieve national targets for waste management.(Ranti Uchera et al., 2024)

The following are the key principles of waste management according to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK):

1. Waste Reduction (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). Reduce: Reduce the use of single-use products and lower consumption levels. Reuse: Choose and use items that can be reused so they don’t quickly become waste. Recycle: Sort inorganic waste to be processed into new, useful products..
2. Waste Management from Source to Disposal. Source separation: Separating organic, inorganic, and residual waste at the household level, for example, by using different trash bins. Organic waste processing: Processing organic waste into compost or alternative energy sources such as biogas. Inorganic waste processing: Recycling waste through waste banks or other processing facilities. Residual waste processing: Utilizing technologies such as waste-to-energy or sanitary landfills, and avoiding open dumping practices.
3. Regulatory Implementation and Technology. Presidential Regulation No. 109 of 2025: Promotes the use of waste treatment technologies in urban areas to reduce waste volume while generating more environmentally friendly energy. Ministry of Environment and

be implemented by producers. Public education: Raising public awareness to sort waste at the source.

4. Commitment and Investment Support. The government allocates funds through both the regional and national budgets to support waste management. Encouraging environmentally conscious investment in waste treatment infrastructure development.

Definition of Society

A community is a group of individuals who live together in a particular area and form social relationships with one another. The interactions among them generally occur in a regular, organized manner. The existence of this social group enables each individual to interact, cooperate, and help one another. (Arfidianingrum et al., 2023) argue that society is a human community that interacts according to a specific customary system, which is continuous and defined by a shared sense of identity (Wahid Murni, 2017). Society can be understood as a human community that interacts based on a specific customary system, exists continuously, and is defined by a shared sense of identity. Society is also defined as a group of individuals who inhabit a specific territory and are interconnected, either directly or indirectly, in their efforts to meet their basic needs. These relationships form a social unity grounded in solidarity, arising from shared historical, political, and cultural backgrounds.

In the book *Introduction to Anthropology: An Overview of Anthropology*. (Hazah et al., 2022) Society is defined as a group of people united as a single entity, sharing relatively stable relationships and common interests. Furthermore, society can also be viewed as part of a social system or as a collective human existence. Ralph Linton also explains that society consists of individuals living together in a collective life, driven by needs and shaped by specific beliefs, thoughts, and goals. The rules and systems that govern society reflect individual behavior, as each member is bound by existing norms. Meanwhile, according to Soetomo (Kamore et al., 2024), community participation refers to the community's involvement in identifying existing problems and potential opportunities, as well as in determining and making decisions about alternative solutions. This participation constitutes the community's right to be involved in all stages of development, from planning and implementation to monitoring and environmental protection. Thus, the community serves not only as a beneficiary but also as a key actor in development. Such participation reflects the community's awareness and responsibility toward development that concerns the common good. Participation is not limited to physical presence but also includes contributions of ideas,

labor, and moral support in development activities. Through these social groups, individuals can interact, collaborate, and assist one another. (Azis et al., 2024) Society is a human community that interacts continuously, guided by specific customary systems, and shares a sense of common identity. Society can also be understood as a group of individuals living in a particular area who are connected, either directly or indirectly, in their efforts to meet their basic needs. These relationships form a social unity grounded in solidarity stemming from shared historical, political, and cultural backgrounds.

Stages of Community Participation

Mulyadi (2009:26–49) states that community participation can be divided into four stages: participation in decision-making, implementation, utilization of results, and evaluation. In this context, the community has the role and power to shape programs or institutions related to their interests, including the authority to negotiate with external parties seeking to implement changes.

1. Participation in decision-making

Every organizational process, particularly those related to community life, must go through a policy-making phase. Community involvement at this stage is crucial because it concerns their shared interests and future. Forms of participation include attending meetings, engaging in discussions, and sharing ideas or suggestions.

2. Participation in the implementation

Community involvement in implementation is a follow-up to the previously agreed-upon plan. Uphoff explained that the community can contribute to development in various ways, such as through labor, funds, goods, or information that supports the program implementation process.

3. Participation in the utilization of results

Participation at this stage relates to the extent to which the community can enjoy and experience the benefits of the program's implementation. Success can be assessed qualitatively through improvements in outputs, as well as quantitatively through the degree to which established objectives have been achieved. These benefits may take the form of material, social, or personal gains.

4. Participation in the evaluation

Participation in the evaluation refers to community involvement in assessing the overall implementation of the program. The goal is to determine whether the activities carried out have been in line with the plan or if there are still deviations that need to be addressed.(Tugas et al., n.d.)

Factors Affecting Community Participation

According to Soetomo (2012) and Dwiyanto (2015), community participation in development, including in environmental management, is influenced by a number of key factors, including:

1. Social and cultural factors, which include customs and values that have developed within society. If a lack of concern for cleanliness has become the norm, participation rates tend to be low.
2. Social and cultural factors, which include customs and values that have developed within society. If a lack of concern for cleanliness has become the norm, participation rates tend to be low.
3. Educational factors and environmental awareness: the more someone knows about environmental impacts, the more likely they are to participate.
4. Institutional factors and local leadership, which relate to the ability of village governments to mobilize and engage the community in the planning and implementation of environmental programs.
5. These factors are interrelated and influence one another in determining the extent to which the community can play an active role in waste management at the village level.

Waste Management Law No. 18 of 2008

Waste management is a process carried out in a regular, integrated, and sustainable manner, encompassing waste reduction and disposal activities with the aim of improving public health and preserving environmental quality. Waste management is not limited to transportation or disposal activities but also includes prevention efforts from the very onset of waste generation by involving various stakeholders. Research (Syarifuddin, 2023) indicates that an effective waste management system must encompass three main aspects: technical, institutional, and social. The technical aspect relates to the processes of collection, transportation, treatment, and final disposal of waste. The institutional aspect covers the roles

of the government, the private sector, and the community in supporting policies and oversight. Meanwhile, the social aspect relates to the level of public awareness, attitudes, and behaviors regarding environmental cleanliness.

Conditions in Cimohong Village indicate that waste management is not yet functioning optimally, as residents still have the habit of dumping and burning trash on vacant lots without the support of temporary waste collection sites (TPS). These findings suggest that the success of a waste management system is determined not only by the availability of facilities and infrastructure, but also by community attitudes and the effectiveness of policy implementation at the local level. In general, these conditions show that waste management in Cimohong Village has not been implemented in a planned and sustainable manner, as evidenced by the continued practice of littering due to limited facilities and the absence of an integrated management system that involves all segments of the community.

Public Administration and Sustainable Development

From a public administration perspective, waste management is part of the effort to achieve sound environmental governance. Effective public governance requires synergy among the government, the public, and the private sector in delivering public services, including in the environmental sector. The principles of good governance emphasize the importance of transparency, accountability, participation, and efficiency in the implementation of public policies.

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Thus, waste management in Cimohong Village can be viewed as part of the implementation of public administration principles in the field of environmental management. Increasing community participation aims not only to maintain environmental cleanliness but also to build an effective, equitable, and sustainable environmental management system.

Functions and Benefits of Community Participation

Cormick (1979), Goulet (1989), and Wingert (1989), as cited in Santosa and Heroepoetri (2005), explain that community participation serves several functions: as a policy, as a strategy, as a means of communication, as a tool for conflict resolution, and as a form of social therapy.

According to Ericson in Slamet (1993), Public participation in development can be divided into three stages. First, participation in the planning stage, which involves the public in the process of drafting plans and strategies, forming committees, and determining the budget for an activity or project. At this stage, the community plays an active role by participating in meetings and offering ideas, suggestions, and critiques. Second, participation during the implementation stage, which involves the community's engagement in carrying out the activity or project. Forms of participation may include contributions of labor, funds, materials, or ideas to support the implementation of the activity. Moreover, Mubyarto (1984) states that community participation in development can be understood as the willingness of individuals to contribute to the success of development programs in accordance with their respective abilities, without neglecting or undermining their personal interests.

Waste Management Indicators, Components, and Parameters

Table 1. Waste Management Indicators, Components, and Parameters

No	Component	Indicator	Parameter
1	Organic waste (food scraps, fish bones, vegetables, leaves, twigs)	1. Reduction and Sorting 2. Improvement of Facilities and Infrastructure	1. Reuse of items 2. Reducing single-use plastic
2	Inorganic Waste (plastic, bottles, cans, glass, paper, Styrofoam, nails, metal)	1. Reduction and sorting 2. Community participation	1. Reducing the use of single-use plastics 2. Reuse and independent recycling
3	Waste Management	1. Community Participation 2. Availability of facilities	1. Organic and inorganic 2. Regular waste collection system

Source: Law No. 18 of 2008 on Waste Management

Waste Disposal Conditions in Cimohong Village: Vacant Lots and Riverbanks



Photo taken on: January 6, 2026

Figure 2. The State of Waste in Cimohong Village
Babakan Block, West Cimohong area: vacant land bordering the river.



Photo taken on: 06 January 2026

Figure 3. Waste Conditions in Cimohong Village
East Cimohong Block, along Cimohong Highway (Pantura Route), near the industrial area
and rice fields



Photo taken on: 06 January 2026

Figure 4: Waste conditions in Cimohong Village South Cimohong Block near vacant land, a drainage ditch, or an irrigation canal
Previous Research

In addition to existing references, this research also refers to several previous studies
(*Research Gap*):

Table 2. Previous Research

No	Research Title	Researcher and Year	Previous Research Findings	Similarities	Differences
1.	The Role of Community Participation in Household Waste Management in Sumberrejo Village, Banyuwangi Regency (Suryani, 2020).	Suryani, E. (2020)	It was found that low community participation was due to a lack of environmental education and weak coordination by the village government	It was found that low participation was due to a lack of education and poor coordination.	The focus of this study highlights the lack of education and coordination as the cause of low household participation.

No	Research Title	Researcher and Year	Previous Research Findings	Similarities	Differences
2.	Evaluation of the Waste Bank Program as an Environmental Empowerment Initiative in Jatibarang Subdistrict.	Wulandari, T. & Putra, H. (2021)	This shows that public participation increases when there are economic incentives and government support.	Government support	This study places greater emphasis on the economic incentive aspect of waste bank programs as a factor driving participation.
3.	An Analysis of the Influence of Social and Cultural Factors on Community Engagement in Waste Management in Rural Areas.	Rahmawati, D. (2022)	Emphasizing that the culture of mutual cooperation, which is beginning to fade, has become a major obstacle in waste management.	This indicates that socio-cultural factors, particularly the decline in community cooperation, also contribute to the low level of citizen engagement.	This study adopts a sociocultural perspective, specifically focusing on the decline of the culture of mutual cooperation as a barrier.
4.	The Role of Village Governments in Raising Environmental Awareness in Karawang Regency	Sitorus, M. (2023)	It can be concluded that collaboration between village officials and the community is key to effective environmental management.	Emphasizing the importance of collaboration between the village government and the community.	This study focuses on the role of village governments as key actors in raising environmental awareness.

No	Research Title	Researcher and Year	Previous Research Findings	Similarities	Differences
5.	Level of Community Participation in Village Cleanliness Programs: A Case Study in Tegal Regency.	Hidayah, N. (2024)	The study found that good public facilities and communication have a significant impact on citizen participation.	It was found that participation depends heavily on adequate facilities and effective public communication.	This study focuses on the availability of facilities and the effectiveness of public communication as determinants of citizen participation.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach to gain an in-depth understanding of the factors contributing to low community participation in waste management in Cimohong Village, Bulakamba Subdistrict, Brebes Regency. This approach was chosen because it can comprehensively describe social phenomena and explore the meanings, experiences, and actions of the parties directly involved in waste management at the village level. Thus, the researcher can gain a more comprehensive understanding of the social, cultural, and institutional dynamics that influence community involvement in maintaining environmental cleanliness.

This study is descriptive in nature; that is, it aims to systematically and objectively describe the conditions and circumstances on the ground without manipulating the variables under study. The descriptive approach is used to provide a detailed account of the forms of community participation, the challenges encountered, and the roles of the village government and relevant stakeholders in waste management.

The research subjects included residents of Cimohong Village, Brebes Regency, who are involved in waste management activities; village officials with authority over sanitation and environmental matters; sanitation workers; and representatives from the Brebes Regency Environmental Agency who are responsible for guidance and oversight. Subjects were selected through purposive sampling, taking into account the informants' level of involvement and understanding of the issues under study.

The

focus of this study is community participation in waste management, which encompasses involvement in the planning, implementation, utilization of results, and evaluation of activities. In addition, this study examines the factors that hinder community participation including social, economic, cultural, and institutional factors as well as the various efforts undertaken by village governments and relevant stakeholders to increase such community involvement.(Journal of Public Health & Hardianti, n.d.)

In this study, the researcher served as the principal investigator, involved from the planning stage through data collection, analysis, and the drawing of conclusions. To support the data collection process, instruments such as interview guidelines, observation sheets, and documentation were used. Data collection was conducted through interviews with village heads and community members, direct observation of environmental conditions and waste management activities, and the collection of documents such as archives, activity reports, and policies related to waste management.

The final stage of the research involves drawing conclusions and verification, during which the researcher seeks to identify meanings, patterns, and relationships among the findings from the collected data. At this stage, data validity is also tested through triangulation of sources, methods, and time, to ensure that the research results are valid, objective, and scientifically sound.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Based on field observations, in-depth interviews with village officials, community leaders, and residents of Cimohong Village, and supported by a review of relevant documents, several key findings were identified regarding the low level of community involvement in waste management. These findings were then categorized into the following factors:

1. Low Public Awareness and Knowledge

The interview results indicate that most people still lack a sufficient understanding of the importance of proper waste management and the long-term consequences of littering. Waste is still viewed as an individual matter rather than a shared responsibility. The lack of environmental education has also led people to be out of the habit of separating organic and inorganic waste.

2. Lack of Outreach and Education from the Village Government

Research has found that public awareness activities related to waste management remain very limited. Outreach programs, training sessions, and cleanliness campaigns have not

been conducted on a regular and sustained basis. As a result, the public does not have sufficient information about proper waste management practices and the benefits of actively participating in such activities.

3. Limited Waste Management Facilities and Infrastructure

The findings of the observation revealed a lack of supporting facilities such as recycling bins, temporary waste collection points, and a scheduled waste collection system. These conditions lead residents to opt for the most convenient solution by disposing of their waste in rivers, gardens, or vacant lots near their neighborhoods.

4. The Weak Role of Village Institutions and Regulations

The study also found that there are currently no village regulations (Perdes) that explicitly address waste management and penalties for violators. Furthermore, the role of village institutions and community groups in encouraging resident participation remains suboptimal, meaning that waste management has not yet become a priority program for the village.

5. Social and Cultural Factors in Society

The long-standing habit of littering remains deeply ingrained in people's daily lives. The spirit of community cooperation in maintaining environmental cleanliness is beginning to wane, particularly among people of working age who are busy with their daily work activities.

6. Lack of Motivation and Incentives for the Public

The interview results revealed that the community does not feel it is deriving any direct benefits from waste management. The lack of economic incentives, such as waste banks or recycling programs that generate added value, has led to low levels of community participation.

In general, the low level of community involvement in waste management in Cimohong Village is influenced by various factors, such as the level of knowledge, availability of facilities, institutional structures, sociocultural conditions, and a lack of policy support and incentives. These findings indicate that increasing community participation requires an integrated approach, including education, the provision of facilities and infrastructure, the strengthening of village regulations, and community empowerment.

Waste consists of various types, including food scraps, paper, plastic, metal, glass, textiles, chemicals, and medical waste. The sources of waste also vary, ranging from households, institutions, and industries to other public sectors. If not managed properly, waste can cause various environmental and health problems, such as air and water pollution, as well as the spread of disease. Therefore, proper waste management is crucial for maintaining

environmental cleanliness and health. Additionally, population growth and increased household economic activity contribute to the rising volume of waste generated daily.



Photo Taken on 14 February 2026

Figure 5: Household waste in the Cimohong Utara neighborhood near the field and vacant lot

Organic waste comes from living organisms and decomposes easily in nature, such as food scraps and leaves. In contrast, inorganic waste comes from non-living materials, is difficult to decompose, and takes a long time to break down, such as plastic, glass, and metal. Organic waste can be processed into compost or biogas, while inorganic waste can be recycled into new products or disposed of through incineration. Therefore, sorting these two types of waste is very important to prevent environmental pollution.

Here are some examples of organic waste commonly found in our surroundings:

1. Food scraps, including organic waste, because they decompose easily and can be turned into compost.
2. The peels and seeds of fruits and vegetables, which are typically discarded by vendors and consumers alike, also fall under the category of organic waste.
3. Fish bones are organic waste typically generated by restaurants that serve fish-based dishes.
4. Animal manure (e.g., from cows) is useful as a raw material for producing biogas and natural fertilizer.
5. Human waste can be used as fertilizer with some economic value, even though it is often considered unhygienic.

6. Wood is a type of organic waste that can be reused, for example as a source of renewable energy because it contains cellulose.(K. A. Putri & Setiawan, 2024).
7. Leaves, such as those that fall from trees, can serve as the primary material for composting if managed properly.



Figure 6 Organic Waste



Figure 7 Inorganic Waste

Examples of inorganic waste include: plastic bottles, plastic bags, food wrappers, and plastic cups; broken glass bottles, mirrors, and broken glass; beverage cans, aluminum foil, and scrap metal; used tires and rubber toys; Styrofoam, batteries, and electronic cables.

DISCUSSION

According to Soetomo (2012), Community participation can be analyzed through four forms of involvement in the development process. This concept can be applied to waste management in Cimohong Village as follows:

1. Participation in Planning

Soetomo explained that community involvement in the planning stage is essential to ensure that the program developed aligns with the community's needs and circumstances. In this study, community participation in the waste management planning phase has not yet been fully realized. This is evident from residents' complaints about the location of the waste collection points, which they consider too far away, as well as the waste collection system, which they deem ineffective. This situation indicates that the community has not been fully involved in decision-making regarding the determination of waste management facilities and systems in the village.

2. Participation in Implementation

Participation in implementation refers to the community's direct involvement in carrying out jointly established programs. In this study, some residents have participated in activities to maintain environmental cleanliness and understand the importance of separating organic and inorganic waste. However, implementation remains inconsistent, as some community members still litter or burn their trash. This situation indicates that the level of community participation in waste management implementation is still suboptimal, influenced by community habits, limited resources, and low environmental awareness.

3. Benefit Sharing

According to Soetomo, the community tends to participate more actively when the benefits of the program are tangibly felt. In this study, the community has experienced positive impacts from waste management, such as a cleaner environment, reduced unpleasant odors, and a lower risk of flooding. However, the economic benefits have not yet been felt significantly because the community believes that the proceeds from selling waste do not yet justify the effort and time invested. This indicates that the program's benefits have not yet been sufficient to drive broader community participation.

4. Participation in the Evaluation

Soetomo also emphasized the importance of community involvement in the evaluation phase to improve program implementation in line with on-the-ground conditions. In this study,

the community has provided various inputs regarding delays in waste collection, the lack of strict enforcement of regulations, and the limitations of supporting facilities. However, these inputs have not yet been fully addressed by the relevant parties. Thus, while community participation in the evaluation phase exists, its implementation has been ineffective because responses from the village government or environmental managers remain limited.

Factors contributing to low community participation in waste management in Cimohong Village. The low level of community participation in Cimohong Village is not due to a single factor, but rather the result of a combination of economic barriers, inadequate facilities, and a weak local regulatory system. The following are the main contributing factors:

1. Accessibility Barriers and Logistical Challenges

The waste collection site (WCS) in Cimohong Village is difficult for most residents to reach due to the considerable distance (500 meters to 1 kilometer). The lack of a collection system (motorized carts) forces residents to dispose of their waste independently using private vehicles. Fatigue, weather, and distance are the main factors driving residents to choose the easy way out by dumping waste into rivers, irrigation canals, or vacant lots.

2. Economic Factors and Premium Sensitivity

The monthly sanitation fee (ranging from Rp20,000 to Rp30,000) is considered a financial burden for lower-middle-income families because it is seen as equivalent to the price of a staple food (rice). Additionally, there is a mismatch between the fees paid and the quality of service (staff are often late), leading residents to feel they are “losing out” financially and opting to manage their own waste by burning it.

3. Lack of Incentives for Waste Sorting

Although residents are aware of the economic value of plastic and paper waste, participation in waste sorting remains low because:

4. Weak Enforcement of Regulations and (Berbasis & Ngijo, 2024) Sanctions

Village regulations (Perdes) or neighborhood (RT/RW) rules prohibiting littering remain largely symbolic. The lack of strict penalties (fines) and a monitoring system renders these rules ineffective. Residents are not deterred by penalties that amount to nothing more than verbal warnings or social censure.

5. Knowledge Gap (Waste Literacy)

The public has a limited understanding of short-term health impacts (mosquitoes, odors, flooding). There is a “lack of awareness” regarding Category B3 waste (Hazardous and Toxic

Materials), which is often perceived merely as sharp objects, as well as low awareness of long-term health impacts such as well water contamination by leachate.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that community participation in waste management in Cimohong Village, Bulakamba District, Brebes Regency remains relatively low across all stages of participation, including planning, implementation, utilization of benefits, and evaluation. Community involvement has not yet been optimal due to limited engagement in decision-making processes, inconsistent participation in waste management activities, and weak responsiveness to evaluation outcomes.

The low level of participation is influenced by multiple interrelated factors. These include low environmental awareness and knowledge, inadequate environmental education and outreach programs, limited waste management facilities and infrastructure, weak institutional support and regulatory enforcement, unfavorable socio-cultural habits such as littering and open burning of waste, and the absence of sufficient economic incentives to motivate residents to actively participate in waste management programs. Accessibility barriers to waste collection points and dissatisfaction with waste collection services further contribute to the problem.

The findings also reveal that waste management practices in Cimohong Village have not yet aligned with the principles of sustainable environmental management as mandated by Law No. 18 of 2008 on Waste Management. Improper waste disposal and burning practices continue to pose environmental, health, and social risks to the community.

Therefore, improving community participation requires a comprehensive and integrated approach involving the village government, environmental agencies, community organizations, and local residents. Strategic efforts should focus on strengthening environmental education, improving waste management facilities and services, establishing and enforcing village regulations on waste management, developing community-based waste banks and recycling programs, and creating economic incentives that encourage active public involvement. Through collaborative and sustainable efforts, community participation can be enhanced, leading to more effective waste management and improved environmental quality in Cimohong Village.

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