

STRENGTHENING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AMONG CITIZENS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE IN TAOPA SUBDISTRICT, PARIGI MOUTONG REGENCY

Basran Sirula^{1a*}, Sukarman Kamuli^{2b}, and Udin Hamim^{3c}

¹²³Pancasila and Civic Education Study Program, Postgraduate Program, Gorontalo State University, Gorontalo City, Indonesia

^aE-mail: basransirulaS2ppkn@mahasiswa.ung.ac.id

^bE-mail: sukarman_kamuli@ung.ac.id

^cE-mail: udin.hamim@ung.ac.id

(*) Corresponding Author

basransirulaS2ppkn@mahasiswa.ung.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the strengthening of civic disposition through collaborative governance and identify the factors influencing this process in Taopa Subdistrict, Parigi Moutong Regency, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. A qualitative approach with a case study design was employed. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation involving government officials, security personnel, community leaders, civil society organizations, and local residents, and were analyzed interactively and validated through triangulation and member checking. The findings reveal that collaborative governance strengthens civic disposition through two key dimensions: caring as citizens and rule of law. Caring as citizens is fostered through community deliberation, mutual cooperation, community service, and community empowerment, while rule of law is reinforced through legal awareness programs, joint patrols, coconut theft prevention initiatives, and drug abuse prevention campaigns. This process is influenced by the socio-cultural environment, family and education, the capacity of government and security institutions, as well as economic conditions and peer environments. The novelty of this study lies in demonstrating that collaborative governance functions not merely as a mechanism for addressing public issues, but also as a space for cultivating civic character through interaction, participation, and collective responsibility among multiple actors. These findings highlight the importance of collaborative governance as a social foundation for fostering caring, participatory, responsible, and law-abiding citizens.

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INTRODUCTION

Democratic development at the local level is determined not only by the quality of government institutions but also by the character of citizens who are capable of participating responsibly in community life (Mustari et al., 2025). Citizens who care about the public interest, uphold the law, respect differences, and actively participate in resolving social issues are

a prerequisite for the creation of democratic and sustainable governance. These characteristics are known as civic disposition the affective dimension of citizenship that encourages individuals to implement democratic values in their daily lives (Farizi et al., 2025). Without strengthening civic disposition, regional development risks yielding administrative progress but failing to build a society with social responsibility and a commitment to the common good.

Awareness of the importance of civic character has prompted the Indonesian government to develop various policies that emphasize community participation in governance (Ramadhan et al., 2024). Through policies on decentralization, regional development, and the strengthening of local democracy, the community is no longer positioned as an object of development but as a partner of the government in the process of planning, implementing, and evaluating public policies. This paradigm demonstrates that the success of development is not only measured by economic indicators but also by the government's ability to foster collaboration that improves the quality of people's social lives (Harianto et al., 2026).

From a public administration perspective, the collaborative governance approach is considered one of the strategies capable of addressing the complexity of social issues at the local level (Afrisal et al., 2022). Ansell and Gash (2008) explain that collaborative governance is a public decision-making process that involves government and non-governmental actors in a shared forum oriented toward deliberation, consensus, and collective responsibility (Sartika, 2024). For studies in Civic Education, such collaboration not only produces more responsive policies but also serves as a space for democratic learning that enables citizens to develop attitudes of tolerance, social concern, responsibility, and the ability to resolve conflicts peacefully. The practice of collaborative governance has the potential to become a strategic instrument in strengthening citizens' civic dispositions.

The urgency of strengthening civic dispositions becomes increasingly evident when faced with various social issues emerging in society. Issues such as crime, drug abuse, intergroup violence, low concern for the social environment, and declining public participation in development are indicators that strengthening civic character still faces serious challenges (Barus et al., 2026). These various issues cannot be resolved solely through a law enforcement approach but require preventive efforts that foster citizens' awareness to behave in accordance with the values of democracy, the rule of law, and community life.

This situation is also evident in Taopa Subdistrict, Parigi Moutong Regency, Central Sulawesi Province. Taopa Subdistrict is a rural area with significant human resource potential, yet it faces increasingly complex social dynamics. Differences in population size, socioeconomic conditions, educational levels, and access to public services across villages present distinct challenges for community development.

Data from the Taopa Subdistrict Government show that over the past three years, there has been an increase in several forms of social disorder. Theft cases rose from 8 cases in 2024 to 25 cases in 2025. Cases of drug abuse and trafficking totaled 14 in 2023, 13 in 2024, and rose again to 19 in 2025. Meanwhile, cases of street fights increased from 6 in 2023 to 8 in 2024 and reached 11 in 2025. These trends indicate that various social issues remain real challenges in creating a safe, orderly, and harmonious community in Taopa Subdistrict.

The rise in theft cases is not only related to economic factors and employment opportunities but also reflects weak compliance with legal norms and low social responsibility (Ferdika et al., 2025). On the other hand, the increase in drug abuse indicates that the community's social resilience in coping with negative environmental influences—particularly among the younger generation—remains suboptimal. The phenomenon of street fights also demonstrates the community's continued lack of ability to resolve conflicts through dialogue and deliberation. These various conditions point to a fundamental issue: the lack of a strong civic disposition as a foundational character trait of citizens in community life.

In addressing these issues, the government cannot act alone. Tackling various social problems requires the involvement of various stakeholders, such as subdistrict governments, village governments, the police, educational institutions, religious leaders, traditional leaders, youth organizations, and the general public (Lubis et al., 2024). One organization that holds a strategic position is Karang Taruna, which serves as a platform for youth development at the village level. The involvement of youth organizations in fostering legal awareness, social concern, a culture of mutual cooperation, and community participation is a crucial component in cultivating citizens' civic disposition through the practice of collaborative governance (Alamanda et al., 2025).

Previous scholarship provides important but fragmented explanations of the relationship between collaborative governance and civic disposition. Studies on collaborative governance have predominantly emphasized governance-oriented

outcomes, including public service effectiveness, policy implementation, conflict resolution, and community-based development (Maulani & Rahmawati, 2025; Susilowati et al., 2022). In contrast, civic disposition research has focused on the formation of democratic attitudes, responsibility, and orientation toward the public interest, particularly within formal educational settings (Mulyono, 2017). Although both strands of scholarship emphasize participation and collective responsibility, they differ in their analytical orientation: collaborative governance studies primarily explain how multiple actors jointly address public problems, whereas civic disposition studies concentrate on the qualities citizens are expected to develop. What remains insufficiently explained is how participation in collaborative governance itself becomes a social process through which civic dispositions are formed and strengthened in everyday community life.

This study addresses this gap by positioning collaborative governance not merely as an administrative arrangement for coordinating multiple stakeholders but as a civic formation mechanism through which citizens develop social concern and commitment to the rule of law. The novelty of this study lies in linking cross-actor collaborative processes with the development of civic disposition in a community setting at the subdistrict level, where collaboration emerges directly in response to concrete social problems. Rather than assessing collaboration solely through institutional or policy outcomes, this study examines its civic outcomes by exploring how deliberation, collective action, shared responsibility, and interactions among government institutions, security actors, community organizations, and citizens contribute to the formation of caring and law-abiding citizens. This perspective extends civic disposition research beyond formal educational settings while broadening collaborative governance scholarship by introducing civic character formation as an important outcome of local collaborative practices.

Accordingly, this study aims to analyze how civic disposition is strengthened through collaborative governance in Taopa Subdistrict, Parigi Moutong Regency, and to identify the factors influencing this process. By examining collaboration as both a governance practice and a process of civic formation, this study seeks to contribute to Civic Education scholarship and provide an empirical basis for community-based approaches to strengthening responsible, participatory, socially concerned, and law-abiding citizenship.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach using a case study design. The qualitative approach was chosen because the study aims to gain an in-depth understanding of the process of strengthening citizens' civic dispositions through collaborative governance practices in sub-district-level governance. The case study design was used to obtain a comprehensive picture of the interactions among stakeholders, the forms of collaboration established, and the factors influencing the strengthening of civic dispositions in a natural setting.

The research was conducted in Taopa Subdistrict, Parigi Moutong Regency, Central Sulawesi Province. Field data collection was conducted in June 2026, particularly in Palapi, Taopa Utara, and Paria Villages. The research location was selected purposively, considering that Taopa Subdistrict has faced various social issues—such as rising cases of theft, drug abuse, and street fights over the past three years—making collaboration among various stakeholders necessary to strengthen the community's civic character. Furthermore, this area features active involvement by the subdistrict government, village governments, law enforcement, community organizations, and youth organizations in various community development programs.

Research subjects were selected using purposive sampling, specifically informants deemed to possess knowledge and experience regarding the implementation of collaborative governance in Taopa Subdistrict. Research informants included the Taopa Subdistrict Head, subdistrict government officials, village heads, representatives from the Moutong Police Precinct, the Moutong Military Subdistrict Command (Koramil), Community Police Officers (Bhabinkamtibmas), Village Defense Officers (Babinsa), Karang Taruna leaders, community leaders, and community members involved in collaborative activities. Informants were selected in stages until the data collected reached saturation. The informants represented governmental, security, village-level, organizational, and community perspectives so that the data could capture the collaborative process from multiple actors.

Data collection was conducted using three techniques: in-depth interviews, observation, and documentation. In-depth interviews were used to obtain information regarding the forms of collaborative governance implementation, strategies for strengthening civic disposition, and the factors that support and hinder its implementation. Non-participatory observation was used to directly observe collaborative activities among actors in various government and community empowerment initiatives. Meanwhile, documentation was used to supplement the data through various official documents, such as activity reports, minutes of coordination meetings, regulations, crime data, and documentation of activities relevant to the research focus.

The primary instrument in this study was the researcher (human instrument), who played a role in determining the research focus, collecting data, conducting analysis, and interpreting the research results. To support the data collection process, the researcher used interview guidelines, observation guidelines, voice recorders, cameras, and documentation forms.

Data analysis employs the interactive model (Miles & Huberman, 1992) which comprises three stages: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification. Data reduction involves selecting, grouping, and focusing the data in accordance with the research objectives. The reduced data is then presented in the form of narratives, matrices, and inter-thematic relationships to facilitate the interpretation process. The final stage involves drawing conclusions that are continuously verified throughout the research process to ensure the research results have a high level of credibility.

Data validity is ensured through source triangulation and methodological triangulation. Source triangulation is conducted by comparing information obtained from various informants, while methodological triangulation is carried out by comparing the results of interviews, observations, and documentation. In addition, the study applied member checking with several key informants to ensure that the researcher's interpretations align with the information provided, so that the research findings possess scientifically accountable levels of credibility, reliability, confirmability, and transferability.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Strengthening Civic Disposition Among Citizens through Collaborative Governance in Taopa Subdistrict, Parigi Moutong Regency

Based on the research results, the implementation of collaborative governance in Taopa Subdistrict, Parigi Moutong Regency, Central Sulawesi Province, serves as an effective mechanism for strengthening the civic disposition of the community. This is evident from various forms of collaboration involving the Taopa Subdistrict Government, village governments, the Taopa Police Station (*Polsek*), the Taopa Military District Command (*Koramil*), religious leaders, traditional leaders, community leaders, community organizations, and the public in the administration of government and the resolution of various public issues. Through this collaboration, the community not only participates in the implementation of government programs but also gains social experiences that foster a sense of concern for the common good, social responsibility, and an awareness of the need to comply with applicable regulations. Thus, collaborative governance not only strengthens coordination among stakeholders but also serves as a space for civic education that shapes the character of citizens in community life.

Research findings indicate that the strengthening of civic disposition develops through various collaborative activities carried out on an ongoing basis, such as village deliberations, mutual aid (*gotong royong*), community service (*kerja bakti*), community empowerment, social conflict resolution, legal education, neighborhood security patrols, the formation of a Task Force to Eradicate Coconut Theft, and outreach on drug abuse prevention. These activities provide opportunities for the community to be directly involved in decision-making processes, program implementation, and the resolution of various issues faced by the community. Such involvement fosters civic experiences that encourage the community to develop a sense of concern for the common good while also raising awareness about maintaining order and security in the community.

Based on the results of the data analysis, the strengthening of civic disposition in Taopa Subdistrict is primarily reflected through two main dimensions: "caring as citizens" and "rule of law." The "caring as citizens" dimension is demonstrated by the growth of social concern, solidarity, community participation, and responsibility toward the common good. Meanwhile, the "rule of law" dimension is reflected in the public's growing awareness of the need to comply with regulations, maintain community safety, support efforts to prevent criminal acts, and participate in various legal awareness

activities organized collaboratively by the government, the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), the Indonesian National Police (Polri), and the community. These two dimensions have developed simultaneously through the community's experiences in various collaborative activities taking place at both the subdistrict and village levels.

To provide a more systematic overview of the research findings, the results of the identification of the strengthening of civic disposition through the implementation of collaborative governance in Taopa Subdistrict, Parigi Moutong Regency, are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Strengthening Civic Disposition through Collaborative Governance in Taopa Subdistrict, Parigi Moutong Regency

Dimensions of Civic Disposition	Forms of Collaborative Governance	Indicators of Findings
Caring as Citizens	Village deliberations, mutual assistance, community service, social activities, community empowerment, collaboration between the government and community leaders, religious leaders, the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), the Indonesian	Increased social awareness, solidarity, community participation, and responsibility toward the common good.
Rule of Law	Legal education, joint patrols, the Task Force for Combating Coconut Theft, awareness campaigns on the dangers of narcotics, and coordination among the subdistrict government, village government, the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), and the Indonesian National Police (Polri)	Increased legal awareness, community participation in maintaining neighborhood security, and compliance with regulations, although some legal violations are still observed.

Source: Research Data (2026)

The research findings indicate that the implementation of collaborative governance in Taopa Subdistrict, Parigi Moutong Regency, contributes to strengthening the community's civic disposition, particularly in the dimensions of "caring as citizens" and "rule of law." These two dimensions develop through community involvement in various collaborative activities that require communication, coordination, trust, and shared responsibility. These findings suggest that the strengthening of civic character does not occur through the normative transmission of values, but rather through participatory experiences that enable the community to practice civic values in their social lives. The higher the intensity of community involvement in collaborative processes, the greater the likelihood of the internalization of civic disposition values in daily behavior.

These findings align with the concept of civic disposition proposed by (Branson, 1999), who explains that civic character encompasses attitudes and habits that support democratic life, such as concern for others, social responsibility, respect for the law, and a willingness to participate in public life (Mulyono, 2017). From this perspective, citizens are not only required to understand their rights and obligations but also need to gain real-world experience in applying these values. The results of this study indicate that such experiences are acquired by the community through engagement in various forms of collaboration between the government and the public, thereby allowing civic disposition values to develop through repeated social practices in community life. This finding is important because civic disposition appears to develop not simply from citizens' knowledge of civic norms, but from opportunities to enact those norms in concrete social situations. Mutual assistance, deliberation, community service, and collective security practices transform abstract values such as responsibility, concern, and respect for rules into socially reinforced habits. The collaborative environment therefore functions as an informal arena of civic learning in which civic character is reproduced through interaction and collective practice.

These research findings can also be explained through the collaborative governance model proposed by Ansell and Gash (2007) in (Sartika, 2024). This model emphasizes that the success of collaboration is influenced by face-to-face

dialogue, trust-building, commitment to the process, shared understanding, and shared outcomes. Research findings show that collaborative practices in Taopa Subdistrict are established through deliberative forums, cross-sectoral coordination, social activities, and cooperation among the government, security forces, community leaders, and residents. These interactions not only strengthen the effectiveness of governance but also foster a sense of collective responsibility in safeguarding the public interest. Thus, the success of collaborative governance is measured not only by the achievement of development programs but also by the development of civic character among the community.

The findings partly reinforce previous studies demonstrating that collaborative governance can increase community participation, strengthen government–citizen relations, and improve governance effectiveness (Amalia, 2025; Priadi et al., 2024). However, while these studies predominantly assess collaboration through institutional outcomes such as public service improvement, conflict resolution, and resource management, the present study identifies an additional outcome at the citizen level. In Taopa, participation in deliberation, mutual assistance, community service, collective security, and problem-solving was associated with the enactment of social concern, responsibility, and respect for legal norms. This distinction is important because it shifts the analytical focus from what collaboration produces institutionally to what participation in collaboration may cultivate among citizens. Collaborative governance can therefore be understood not only through its policy and administrative outcomes but also through its potential civic outcomes.

This study highlights more specific aspects than previous research. While most previous studies have framed collaborative governance as an approach to improving the effectiveness of public administration, this study demonstrates how collaborative processes serve as a mechanism for strengthening civic character. The findings indicate that “caring as citizens” and the “rule of law” develop through community experiences in deliberation, role-sharing, mutual aid, conflict resolution, community safety monitoring, and various recurring social activities. Thus, the strengthening of civic disposition is not merely the result of community involvement in government programs, but rather the result of social experiences gained during the collaborative process.

The emergence of these civic qualities can be understood from the social characteristics of collaboration in Taopa. Collaborative activities bring citizens into repeated interaction around problems that directly affect their collective lives, such as community security, social assistance, environmental activities, and public order. Because the problems are concrete and locally experienced, participation carries immediate social meaning for community members. Deliberation encourages citizens to recognize different interests, mutual assistance reinforces social reciprocity, while joint security activities create shared responsibility for maintaining public order. It is through these different forms of participation—not participation alone—that collaborative governance contributes to the development of caring and law-abiding civic orientations.

Theoretically, these findings extend the understanding of collaborative governance by suggesting that its outcomes should not be confined to institutional effectiveness, policy performance, or service delivery. Collaborative processes may also generate civic outcomes by providing citizens with repeated opportunities to exercise social concern, responsibility, deliberation, and respect for rules. This perspective also extends civic disposition beyond the domain of formal Civic Education by demonstrating that civic character can be cultivated through everyday participation in community governance. Practically, the findings suggest that local governments should design collaborative forums not merely as mechanisms for consultation but as sustained spaces for meaningful citizen involvement. Village deliberations, community service, joint security initiatives, legal awareness programs, and community-based problem-solving should provide citizens with substantive roles in identifying problems, making decisions, implementing collective actions, and evaluating outcomes. Such arrangements may simultaneously strengthen governance capacity and create opportunities for civic learning at the community level.

Overall, this study advances a civic-oriented interpretation of collaborative governance by demonstrating that collaboration can generate outcomes beyond administrative and policy effectiveness. In the context of Taopa Subdistrict, collaborative practices function as social spaces in which caring as citizens and rule of law are enacted and reinforced through collective experience. This finding establishes a conceptual link between collaborative governance and civic disposition and highlights civic character formation as a potential outcome of participatory local governance.

Factors Influencing Civic Disposition Among Citizens through Collaborative Governance in Taopa Subdistrict, Parigi Moutong Regency

Based on the research findings, the strengthening of civic disposition among the community in Taopa Subdistrict, Parigi Moutong Regency, Central Sulawesi Province, is influenced by various interrelated factors in the process of implementing collaborative governance. The research findings indicate that the development of civic character is influenced not only by community involvement in various collaborative programs but also by social environmental conditions, the role of the family, educational attainment, economic conditions, local culture, and the synergy among the government, security forces, community leaders, and civil society organizations. Collectively, these factors shape a social environment that can either strengthen or hinder the development of social concern, responsibility, participation, and legal compliance among community members.

Research findings indicate that a community environment that upholds the values of mutual cooperation, deliberation, and social concern is capable of fostering the growth of “caring as citizens.” Conversely, the influence of a negative social environment, low levels of parental supervision, limited educational attainment, economic pressures, and the still-low level of community participation in maintaining neighborhood security are factors that hinder the strengthening of the rule of law. On the other hand, collaboration between the Taopa Subdistrict Government, village governments, the Moutong Police Station, the Moutong Military Sub-District Command, Community Police Officers (Bhabinkamtibmas), Village Defense Officers (Babinsa), religious leaders, traditional leaders, and community leaders has been a key factor in building legal awareness and strengthening the civic character of the community through various capacity-building activities, legal education, joint patrols, and community empowerment.

Based on the results of the data analysis, the factors influencing civic disposition among the community in Taopa Subdistrict can be categorized into supporting factors and inhibiting factors. Supporting factors include a conducive social environment, a culture of mutual cooperation, the role of the government and security forces, community participation, and ongoing capacity-building efforts. Meanwhile, inhibiting factors include peer influence, weak parental supervision, limited educational attainment, economic pressures, and the still-low awareness among some community members regarding compliance with the law and participation in maintaining neighborhood security. These factors interact with one another, thereby determining the success of the process of strengthening civic disposition through collaborative governance.

To provide a more systematic overview of the research findings, the factors influencing the community’s civic disposition through the implementation of collaborative governance in Taopa Subdistrict, Parigi Moutong Regency, are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Factors Influencing Civic Disposition through Collaborative Governance in Taopa, Parigi Moutong

Factor	Form of Influence	Indicators of Findings
Local social and cultural environment	Mutual cooperation, deliberation, social concern, community solidarity	Increases social concern, community participation, and responsibility toward the common good.
Family and education	Instilling moral values, parental supervision, and educational attainment	Fostering legal awareness, discipline, and civic responsibility.
The role of the government and law enforcement	Legal education, joint patrols, community development, empowerment, and cross-sector coordination	Improving compliance with the law and strengthening community participation in maintaining neighborhood security.
Economic conditions and the influence of social circles	Economic pressures, peer influence, and low levels of social supervision	Have the potential to trigger legal violations, such as theft of agricultural produce, fights, and suspected drug abuse.

Source: Research Data (2026)

The research findings indicate that the strengthening of civic disposition among residents in Taopa Subdistrict is influenced by a combination of various factors stemming from both the social environment and individual characteristics. These factors do not operate in isolation but interact with one another in shaping social concern, responsibility, community participation, and compliance with the law. These findings indicate that the development of civic disposition is influenced

not only by community involvement in collaborative governance but also by the quality of the family environment, a culture of mutual cooperation, educational attainment, economic conditions, peer influence, and support from the government and law enforcement agencies. The more conducive the social environment is, the greater the opportunity for the development of responsible civic character—one that cares for the common good and adheres to prevailing norms and laws.

These findings can be explained through the Social Capital Theory proposed by Robert D. Putnam. Putnam (Tjahjono, 2017) explains that a society's success in building a democratic way of life is greatly influenced by the presence of social capital, which consists of trust, social networks, and norms of reciprocity. Strong social capital encourages communities to cooperate, help one another, foster concern for the common good, and increase participation in resolving public issues. Research findings in Taopa Subdistrict indicate that a culture of mutual aid, deliberation, concern for others, and synergy among the subdistrict government, village government, security forces, community leaders, and residents serve as social capital that strengthens the formation of civic disposition. The significance of social capital in this context lies not merely in the existence of social networks but in the norms reproduced through those networks. Mutual cooperation, deliberation, and reciprocal assistance create repeated expectations that community members should care for others and contribute to collective interests. This helps explain why caring as citizens was more visible in settings where community interaction and collective activities remained strong. Social capital therefore operates as a social mechanism that converts interpersonal relationships into civic expectations and practices. Conversely, when public trust declines, participation weakens, and concern for the environment diminishes, various problems—such as theft of agricultural produce, fights, and suspected drug abuse—are more likely to arise.

Furthermore, the findings of this study can also be explained through the Social Control Theory proposed by Travis Hirschi. According to Hirschi, individual behavior is strongly influenced by the strength or weakness of social bonds with family, school, the community, and other social institutions (Anarta et al., 2021). These bonds include emotional closeness (attachment), commitment to norms (commitment), involvement in social activities (involvement), and belief in prevailing values (belief). When these social bonds are strong, individuals tend to obey rules and avoid deviant behavior. Conversely, weak family supervision, low community concern, and the influence of a negative social environment increase the likelihood of legal violations. Research findings indicate that various cases of coconut theft in North Taopa Village, fights in the Moian Tourist Area of Palapi Village, and suspected drug abuse in Paria Village are linked to the continued weakness of social control in certain community settings. Therefore, strengthening the roles of families, the community, the village government, and law enforcement is a critical factor in fostering citizens who possess social responsibility and legal awareness.

These research findings align with those of (Kholilah, 2023) which demonstrates that the social environment, community participation, and collaboration among stakeholders are key factors in building participatory governance while strengthening citizens' character. Previous research has primarily focused on the influence of the social environment on community participation or the effectiveness of collaborative governance in government administration. This study reinforces those findings by demonstrating that social, economic, educational, and institutional factors influence the process of strengthening civic dispositions through collaborative practices at the local level. In the context of Taopa, these four forms of social bond help explain why rule of law cannot be strengthened solely through formal law enforcement. Attachment to family and community creates informal supervision; commitment increases the perceived importance of maintaining socially accepted behavior; involvement in community activities reduces social distance between citizens and local institutions; and belief reinforces the legitimacy of prevailing norms. Therefore, legal compliance emerges not only from the fear of formal sanctions but also from citizens' embeddedness in social relationships that reinforce acceptable behavior.

Although this study examines more specific aspects than previous research—most of which primarily identified factors influencing the success of collaborative governance or civic participation in general—In contrast, this study demonstrates how social, family, educational, economic, and institutional support factors influence the formation of the two main dimensions of civic disposition: “caring as citizens” and “rule of law.” Thus, this study not only explains the factors influencing the success of collaboration but also elucidates the mechanisms through which social capital and social control shape citizens' civic character.

This occurs because the social environment serves as the primary space for people to develop habits of interacting, cooperating, and adhering to established norms. An environment supported by harmonious social relationships, family supervision, community concern, and active participation in various social activities will strengthen people's sense of

responsibility and legal awareness. Conversely, weak social capital, low social control, economic pressures, and the influence of negative peer groups can hinder the development of civic disposition. Therefore, strengthening civic character requires the support of all elements of society to ensure that the process of internalizing civic values proceeds sustainably.

The findings of this study have important implications for local governance. Efforts to strengthen civic disposition cannot be achieved solely through legal education or community empowerment programs in isolation; rather, they must be supported by strengthening community social capital, enhancing the role of the family, optimizing the roles of community leaders and law enforcement officials, and developing spaces for participation that can strengthen social bonds among citizens (Kamuli et al., 2021). Thus, strategies for strengthening citizens' character must be designed comprehensively, taking into account the various social factors that influence the formation of civic disposition.

The novelty of this study lies in its ability to comprehensively identify the factors that influence civic disposition within the framework of collaborative governance at the subdistrict level. Unlike previous studies, which generally focused on the effectiveness of collaborative governance or community participation, this study demonstrates that social capital and social control are the two primary factors that either strengthen or hinder the development of "caring as citizens" and the rule of law. These findings offer a new perspective: the success of collaborative governance is determined not only by institutional design and collaborative processes but also by the quality of social relationships, the level of public trust, and the effectiveness of social control that develops within local communities.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that collaborative governance in Taopa Subdistrict strengthens civic disposition through sustained interaction among government institutions, security forces, community leaders, civil society organizations, and citizens. Civic character is formed not merely through participation in collaborative activities, but through the interplay of stakeholder synergy, social capital, social control, family support, education, and socioeconomic conditions that shape citizens' everyday civic experiences. The study therefore extends the understanding of collaborative governance beyond a participatory governance mechanism by demonstrating its role as a social process through which civic dispositions—particularly social concern, responsibility, participation, and respect for the law—are cultivated within local communities. This finding contributes to Civic Education scholarship by showing that civic character development occurs not only through formal educational settings but also through citizens' direct engagement in collaborative governance practices.

The findings imply the need to strengthen inclusive participation, community social capital, social control, and sustainable partnerships among local stakeholders while positioning community-based civic experiences as an important dimension of Civic Education. Nevertheless, this study is limited to a qualitative case study conducted within the specific social and institutional context of Taopa Subdistrict; therefore, its findings cannot be generalized to communities with different sociocultural and governance characteristics. Future research should examine collaborative governance and civic disposition across multiple regions using comparative or mixed-method approaches and explore more specifically how different forms and intensities of citizen participation influence the development of particular dimensions of civic disposition.

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