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# **The Relationship of Community Leaders and Social Cultural Environment with Community Participation in Management of COVID-19 in Tangerang City**

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**Abstract**---This study is to obtain data related to the correlation of community leaders' leadership and the socio-cultural environment (independent variable) with community participation in handling COVID-19 (dependent variable), both varcial (each independent variable) or together. The line of thought in this study uses a correlational quantitative approach. The sample involved 100 community members, which is 20% of the total 520 population in the RW. 06 Padurenan Village, Karang Tengah District, Tangerang City, and selected by proportional random sampling. Data was collected using a questionnaire that was calibrated before use. This study produces data: (1) that the leadership of community leaders has a positive and significant relationship with community participation in preventing COVID-19, with a value of  $r_{y.1} = 0.669 > r_{table}$  ( $r_{table} = 0.195$  at  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $r_{table} = 0.256$  at  $\alpha = 0.01$ ). (2) that the socio-cultural environment has a positive and significant relationship with community participation in handling COVID-19, with a value of  $r_{y.1} = 0.697 > r_{table}$  ( $r_{table} = 0.195$  at  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $r_{table} = 0.256$  at  $\alpha = 0.01$ ). (3) that the leadership of community leaders and the socio-cultural

environment together has a positive and significant relationship with community participation in the response to COVID-19, with a value of  $r_{y.1} = 0.792 > r_{table}$  ( $r_{table} = 0.195$  at  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $r_{table} = 0.256$  at  $\alpha = 0.01$ ).

**Keywords**---community leader leadership, community participation in combating COVID-19, socio-cultural environment.

## Introduction

Information uploaded in <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=Number+cases+covid+19+in+the+world>, that until March 2021 revealed that the number of Covid-19 cases had reached 126 million case. Of these, 71.6 million were declared cured, and 2.77 million were declared dead. The same thing happened in Indonesia, almost every day the number of COVID-19 cases was reported to continue to increase, until March 26, 2021 it was recorded that it had reached 1.49 million. Of these, 1.32 million returned to health and 40,166 were left untreated or died.

To overcome the above conditions, the government has issued various policies, the implementation of which involves all elements of the government and society. In the City of Tangerang, efforts to overcome the COVID-19 outbreak were also carried out in earnest, this is in line with the issuance of; 1) Mayor's Circular No. 443/1097. Bag. Huk/2020 regarding the Follow-up to Prevent the Spread of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Tangerang City. 2) Mayor's Circular Number 149/1214. Bag. Pem/2020 concerning the Establishment of the COVID-19 Alert Village at the RT Level.

The various policies above explicitly demand the participation or participation of the community in dealing with COVID-19 down to the RT level. This is understandable because the distribution area reaches the smallest community unit, namely the family.

However, the level of community or public participation in efforts to prevent COVID-19 is not the same, so the results are different. In Italy, Iran, France and a number of other countries where the level of public participation is low in dealing with COVID-19, this shows a high rate of spread of COVID-19. Meanwhile, in South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, and several other countries where the level of public participation is high in handling COVID-19, there is a lower tendency in its spread and able to control it (Lin et al., 2017; Martiskainen, 2017). Indications of the low level of public participation in several countries in dealing with COVID-19, can be seen from the number of people who tend to rebel against efforts to overcome COVID-19.

The low level of community participation or disobedience to efforts to prevent COVID-19 also occurs in Indonesia. There are so many people who violate the social distancing and stay at home policies (Wegerif et al., 1999; Rosato et al., 2008). This can be seen in various community activities in restaurants, mosques,

and markets, where many people congregate without keeping their distance (Sorensen & Epps, 1996; Garst et al., 2019).

The above conditions also occurred in the Padurenan Village, Karang Tengah District, Tangerang City, based on the author's monitoring or observations in the community, especially in mosques in congregational prayer activities and in other community activities such as markets and wedding venues, it was found that many violated various policies in the community. On this is marked, among others; 1) not keeping a distance in congregational prayers, 2) not wearing a mask when outside the house, 3) jostling when shopping at the market, 4) not washing hands when entering or leaving the shop.

The phenomena found above indicate that the community's participation or participation is still low in efforts to overcome COVID-19. Therefore, the author considers it important to examine this issue and determine the leadership of community leaders and the socio-cultural environment as independent variables which are strongly suspected to have a relationship with community participation in the prevention of COVID-19 (Sudriamunawar, 2006).

## **Method**

To obtain data related to the correlation of leadership of community leaders and the socio-cultural environment (independent variable) with community participation in the prevention of COVID-19 (dependent variable), both variably (each independent variable) and jointly, the researchers used correlational quantitative methods. This study involved 100 respondents as a sample or 20% of the population of 499 RW residents. 08 Padurenan Village, Karang Tengah District, Tangerang City, which was selected randomly and proportionally.

Collecting data using a Likert attitude scale model questionnaire, the value of 1 being the lowest score and the value of 5 being the highest score or (1,2,3,4,5). The questionnaire was compiled based on the indicators of the three variables studied. Before being used the questionnaire was tested to get the value of the validity and reliability of the instrument. Data processing is processed using the SPSS 21 program, while the statistical formulas used include; 1) to measure the level of correlation variably between X and Y, the Product Moment (Pearson) formula is used, (2) to measure the contribution or level of contribution of the X variable to changes that occur in the Y variable, the coefficient of determination formula ( $R^2$ ) is used, and (3) To measure the correlation level of the X1 and X2 variables together with the Y variable, the F-test formula was used.

## **Results and Discussion**

Data processing related to the Y variable, the highest score was 90 and the lowest was 72. The average value was 78.4. and standard deviation 5.25. The frequency distribution of the Y variable is obtained from the calculation of many classes of 7 with an interval of 3. For clarity, the distribution table and graph of the Y variable are presented below.

Table 1  
Variable frequency distribution Y

No	Class	Frequency	Relative frequency	Cumulative frequency
1	72 – 74	28	28	28
2	75 – 77	20	20	48
3	78 – 80	20	20	68
4	81 – 83	12	12	80
5	84 – 86	4	4	84
6	87 – 89	12	12	96
7	90 – 92	4	4	100

The data above shows that 28% of respondents' relative frequency with respect to variable Y is in the interval range of 72 - 74, then 4% is the lowest relative frequency, which is in the interval range of 84 - 86 and 90 - 92. Below is a bar graph to clarify the distribution Y variable data frequency:

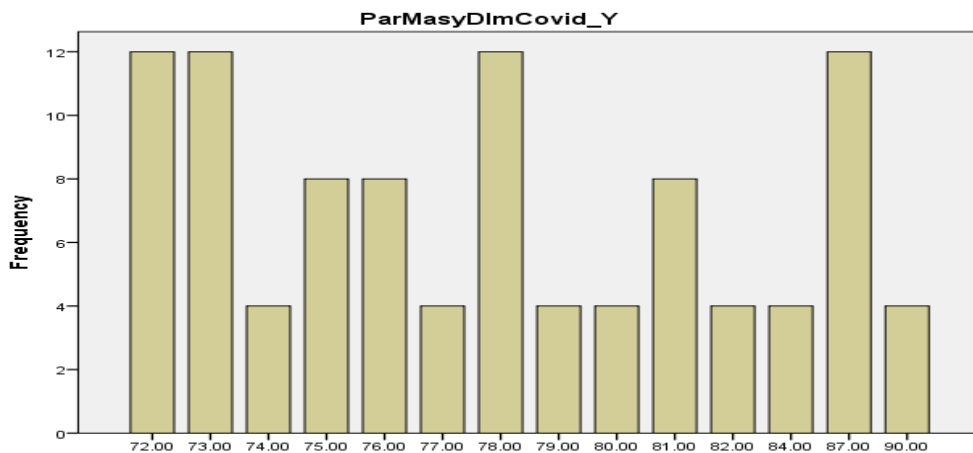


Figure 1. Variable histogram of community participation in COVID-19 response (Y)

While the results of data processing related to the X1 variable, the value of 83 as the highest score and the value of 63 as the lowest score. Then the value is 72.76. as the mean and 5.63 as the standard deviation. The frequency distribution of the X1 variable is obtained from the results of the calculation of many 7th graders with 3 intervals of distance. The following table presents the frequency distribution of the leadership variable of community leaders (X1).

Table 2  
Frequency distribution X<sub>1</sub>

No	Class	Frequency	Relative frequency	Cumulative frequency
1	63 – 65	12	12	12
2	66 – 68	16	16	28

3	69 – 71	16	16	44
4	72 – 74	16	16	60
5	75 – 77	12	12	72
6	78 – 80	20	20	92
7	81 – 83	8	8	100

The data above shows that 20% of the relative frequency of respondents related to the X1 variable is in the interval range of 78 – 80, then 8% is the lowest relative frequency, which is in the interval range of 81 – 83. Below is a bar graph to clarify the frequency distribution of the X1 variable data.

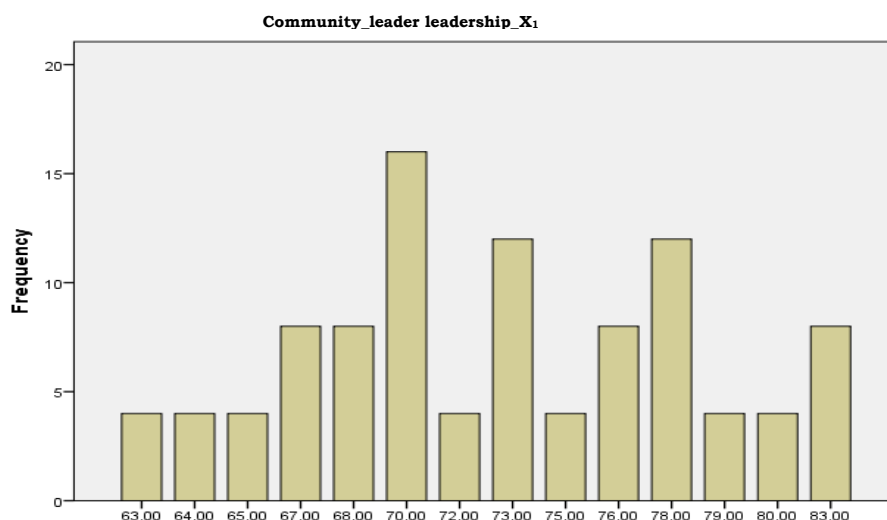


Figure 2. Histogram of community leader leadership variables (X1)

Next is related to the X2 variable, after calculating the score 70 as the highest score and 43 as the lowest score. The mean value is 61.64, and standard deviation 5.46. The frequency distribution of the X2 variable is obtained from the calculation of many 7th graders with 4 intervals of distance. The following table presents the frequency distribution of the socio-cultural environment variable (X2).

Table 3  
Variable frequency distribution X<sub>2</sub>

No	Class	Frequency	Relative frequency	Cumulative frequency
1	43 – 46	4	4	4
2	47 – 50	0	0	4
3	51 – 54	0	0	4
4	55 – 58	20	20	24
5	59 – 62	16	16	40
6	63 – 66	48	48	88
7	67 – 70	12	12	100

The data above shows that 48% of the respondents' relative frequency regarding the X2 variable is in the interval range of 63 – 66, then 0% is the lowest relative frequency, which is in the interval range of 47 – 50 and 51 – 54. Below is a bar graph to clarify the distribution variable data frequency X2.

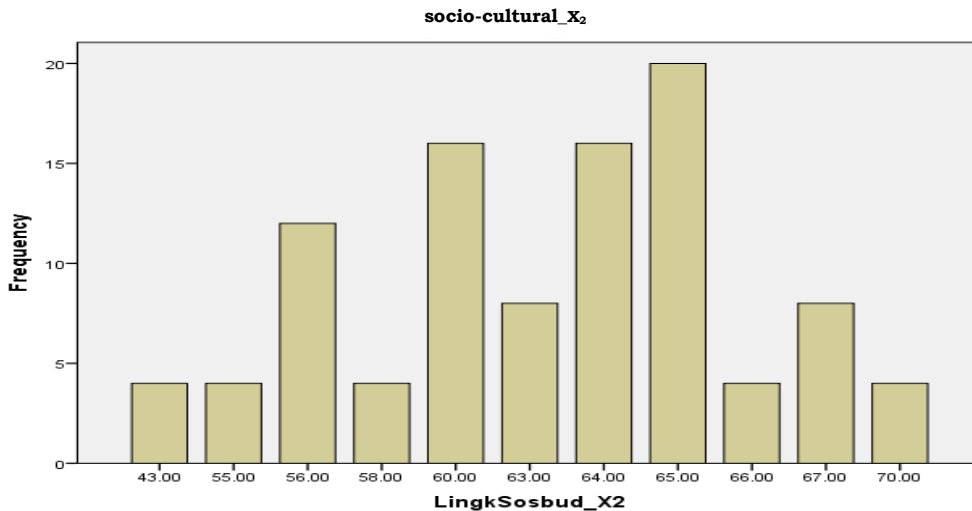


Figure 3. Histogram of socio-cultural environment variables (X2)

The results of data processing through the SPSS 21 program related to the normality test and homogeneity test show that the distribution of normal data and the population is homogeneous. The results of data processing related to the correlation value and the contribution of the variables X1 and X2 varcially or jointly to the Y variable, became the basis for testing the hypothesis, the results of which were as follows:

- The results of calculations related to the relationship between X1 and Y, the value of  $r_{y.1} = 0.669$  is greater than  $r_{table} = 0.195$  at  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $r_{table} = 0.256$  at  $\alpha = 0.01$ , this shows that  $r_{count}$  is greater than  $r_{table}$ . Then from the calculation of the coefficient of determination, the value of  $r^2 = (r_{y.1})^2 = 0.448$ , which means that there is a contribution of the X1 variable to the changes that occur in the Y variable of 44.80%. Furthermore, based on regression analysis, the value of  $= 32.290 + 0.625X_1$ , with the conclusion that  $F_{count} = 79.583$  is greater than  $F_{table} = 3.09$  at  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $F_{table} = 4.82$  at  $\alpha = 0.01$ ). Based on the results of these calculations,  $H_0$  is rejected and  $H_1$  is accepted, because there is a very significant positive relationship between the leadership of community leaders (X1) and community participation in overcoming COVID-19 (Y).
- The calculation results related to the relationship between X2 and Y, the value of  $r_{y.1} = 0.697$  is greater than  $r_{table} = 0.195$  at  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $r_{table} = 0.256$  at  $\alpha = 0.01$ . This shows that  $r_{count}$  is greater than  $r_{table}$ . Then from the calculation of the coefficient of determination, the value of  $r^2 = (r_{y.1})^2 = 0.485$ , which means that there is a contribution of the X1 variable to the changes that occur in the Y variable of 48.50%. Furthermore, based on regression analysis, the value of  $= 37.104 + 0.670X_2$ , with the conclusion

that  $F_{count} = 92.446$  is greater,  $F_{table} = 3.09$  at  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $F_{table} = 4.82$  at  $\alpha = 0.01$ ). Based on the results of these calculations,  $H_0$  is rejected and  $H_1$  is accepted, because there is a very significant positive relationship between the socio-cultural environment ( $X_2$ ) and community participation in overcoming COVID-19 ( $Y$ ).

- The results of calculations related to the relationship of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  together with  $Y$ , the value of  $r_{y.1} = 0.792$  is greater than  $r_{table} = 0.195$  at  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $r_{table} = 0.256$  at  $\alpha = 0.01$ , this shows  $r_{count}$  larger than  $r_{table}$ . Then from the calculation of the coefficient of determination, the value of  $r^2 = (r_{y.1})^2 = 0.620$ , which means there is a contribution of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  variables to the changes that occur in the  $Y$  variable by 62%. Furthermore, based on regression analysis, the value of  $= 20.290 + 0.403X_1 + 0.467 X_2$ , with the conclusion that  $F_{count} = 81.626$  is greater than  $F_{table} = 3.09$  at  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $F_{table} = 4.82$  at  $\alpha = 0.01$ . Based on the results of these calculations,  $H_0$  is rejected and  $H_1$  is accepted, because there is a very significant positive relationship between the leadership of community leaders ( $X_1$ ) and the socio-cultural environment ( $X_2$ ) and community participation in overcoming COVID-19 ( $Y$ ).

It can be explained that the leadership of community leaders is an opinion leader or opinion in the midst of society. Its existence is sometimes more influential than a formal leader. [Kartono \(2015\)](#), mentions the characteristics of informal leaders or community leaders as follows:

- Born by itself without official appointment
- Appointed by a community group for an indefinite period as long as it is still influential or accepted by the group.
- Without the support of organizations or organized groups in carrying out their leadership.
- Without reward and without strings attached, perform duties as a calling from the soul.
- Without any rotation or change of position and certain conditions, born naturally.

The leadership of community leaders usually comes from their personality or authority. In the midst of people's lives, there are usually people who are portrayed as informal leaders, where people ask for views or opinions or as opinion leaders. [Najoan et al. \(2017\)](#), stated that: "Usually in every community life there are people who become opinion leaders or opinions and become figures. This person is the place to be asked for advice or views regarding the problems faced by a person or group of people. The presence of community leaders is usually very influential and influences the behavior of others around them.

[Surbakti et al. \(2016\)](#), also said, "the presence of community leaders is very important, this is because their personalities are respected and respected, so they can influence the behavior of those around them". This means that community leaders are the embodiment of leadership traits that a person has so that they become a reference or reference for the community in behaving or making decisions.

So the leadership of community leaders certainly has a relationship with the level of participation given by the community to an activity or in this study community participation in overcoming COVID-19. The more influential the leadership of community leaders, the higher the level of community participation in COVID-19 prevention activities.

Based on the explanation above, both theoretically and empirically it can be concluded that the leadership of community leaders has a strong relationship with the level of community participation in overcoming COVID-19. Therefore, if there is a phenomenon of low community participation in COVID-19 prevention activities, it is necessary to make efforts the involvement of influential community leaders ([Prabhakaran et al., 2014](#)). With this effort, it is hoped that it will increase public participation in the fight against COVID-19.

It can also be explained that the socio-cultural environment has a strong impact on people's behavior. This is because human behavior as social beings will naturally be bound and adapt to the socio-cultural environment. Every individual in social life, whether consciously or not, will carry out patterns of social relations and follow the rules or values that he believes in. According to [Barnett & Casper \(2011\)](#), that: "Socio-cultural environment can be interpreted in a physical, sociocultural context, including the atmosphere it creates and affects the life activities of the people in it".

[Karianga \(2011\)](#), also stated that: "The social environment is an area where various social interactions take place between various groups and their institutions with symbols and values as well as established norms also relating to the natural environment and the built environment or the environment artificial (spatial)". So the social environment is a system of norms around individuals or groups of people who become a force in society so that it affects their behavior patterns and interactions ([Avolio & Gardner, 2005](#)). The cultural environment is a condition of the cultural value system, customs, and way of life of the people that surround a person's life. This means that the better the socio-cultural environment, the higher the community participation activity in a social activity ([Manullang, 2021](#)).

Based on the explanation above, both theoretically and empirically, it can be concluded that the socio-cultural environment has a strong relationship with the level of community participation in overcoming COVID-19. Therefore, if there is a phenomenon of low community participation in overcoming COVID-19, it is necessary to make efforts to improve other socio-cultural environmental conditions through intensive religious activities ([Tran et al., 2020](#); [Farsalinos et al., 2021](#)). With this effort, it is hoped that it will increase public participation in the fight against COVID-19.

Community participation in government programs in order to improve their welfare is a selfless social behavior. The social behavior is purely because they feel called to participate or take part in a joint activity in the community. This is as expressed by Huneryear and Heoman in [Dwiningrum \(2015\)](#), which states that "the notion of participation refers to the physical and mental or emotional involvement of a person or group of people to realize shared goals with full



responsibility". Added [Pidarta \(1988\)](#), that, "in participation there is physical and mental involvement and other abilities to support the achievement of shared goals with full responsibility".

So participation is a person's mental calling to act socially or selflessly. This means demanding a strong and correct understanding of the program that is the object of participation. In addition, mental or moral responsibility is also needed to be willing to take social actions or participate in overcoming COVID-19.

Based on the explanation above, both theoretically and empirically it can be concluded that the leadership of community leaders and the socio-cultural environment has a strong relationship with the level of community participation in overcoming COVID-19. Therefore, if there is a phenomenon of low community participation in overcoming COVID-19, it is necessary there is a leadership role of community leaders and it is necessary to build a conducive socio-cultural environment for development ([Telep et al., 2021](#)). With these efforts, it is hoped that it will increase community participation

## **Conclusions**

To conclude this paper, it is concluded that:

- The leadership of community leaders has a positive and significant relationship with community participation in handling COVID-19 in the Pedurenan Village, Karang Tengah District, Tangerang City. This means that it has implications for the importance of empowering the leadership of community leaders in dealing with COVID-19.
- The socio-cultural environment has a positive and significant relationship with community participation in handling COVID-19 in the Pedurenan Village, Karang Tengah District, Tangerang City. This means that it has implications for the importance of building a conducive socio-cultural environment and can contribute to development activities, including Covid-19 prevention activities.
- The leadership of community leaders and the socio-cultural environment together have a positive and significant relationship with community participation in the prevention of COVID-19 in the Pedurenan Village, Karang Tengah District, Tangerang City. This has implications for the importance of the participation of informal leaders and creating a conducive socio-cultural environment to support various development activities.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the conclusions above, it is recommended as follows:

- For the Padurenan Village, Karang Tenagah District, Tangerang City:
  - Presumably there needs to be an effort to involve influential community leaders in the intensive socialization of the COVID-19 response. Through these efforts, it is hoped that it will have an impact on increasing public participation in the prevention of COVID-19.

- Presumably there needs to be an effort to cultivate good things in society, including through religious activities and joint activities in the community. Through these efforts, it is hoped that it will have an impact on increasing community participation in dealing with COVID-19.
- For the Community of Padurenan Village, Karang Tengah District, Tangerang City:
  - It is hoped that the community needs to heed the government's recommendations and respect the involvement of community leaders in handling COVID-19. Through these efforts, it is hoped that it will have an impact on increasing community participation in overcoming COVID-19.
  - Presumably the community needs to work together to create a conducive and positive socio-cultural environment. Through these efforts, it is hoped that it will have an impact on increasing community participation in dealing with COVID-19.

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