# The Impact and Role of Politics on Infrastructure Development and Socio-Economic Empowerment of North Lombok Communities

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**ABSTRACT**

Politics plays a crucial role in determining the direction of infrastructure development and socioeconomic empowerment of the community in North Lombok. Development is inherently linked to government policies and practices, particularly in realizing the nation's aspirations for social justice for all Indonesian citizens. The people of North Lombok tend to expect political support in infrastructure development and community empowerment programs such as training, skill development, and economic empowerment for women rather than participating in politics to improve family economics. They also believe that political support can enhance access to education, healthcare, and other essential services but need more confidence in allocating budget funds according to the needs of the North Lombok community. This research focuses on measuring the extent to which community well-being, particularly in terms of infrastructure and socioeconomic aspects, is influenced by political involvement. Data analysis is conducted in two stages: descriptive statistics and linear regression analysis. The research findings indicate a significant influence of political involvement on infrastructure development, accounting for 45.3% of the variance. Political engagement also significantly impacts the socioeconomic empowerment of the North Lombok community, explaining 47% of the variance. This study has important implications for policymakers who want to consider political factors in the planning and implementing development and community empowerment programs in the North Lombok region.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Modernization serves as a neatly packaged rationale for a nation to embark on development. Development is inherently tied to government policies and practices particularly in realizing the nation's aspirations for social justice for all of Indonesia's citizens. Through infrastructure development and socioeconomic empowerment communities can achieve an improvement in their quality of life. Both of these aspects are crucial issues to be addressed in every region. Infrastructure development entails creating job opportunities and enhancing regional economic growth through economic activities that can improve the welfare of the population thereby reducing poverty rates (Hendra et al. 2020). Development is not solely confined to visible structures such as roadside billboards. Opportunities and support provided to communities through government policies also constitute a form of non-physical development practice known as community empowerment. Empowerment is a process that enables individuals to use their potential and abilities to create positive change in their lives and society (Anme, 2021).

The role of infrastructure as a driver in the economic sector is key to fostering the development of other sectors (Sukwika, 2018). For instance the growth of service-based economy and trade has led to infrastructure development worldwide (Ibrahim et al. 2022). The advancement of infrastructure has the potential to significantly impact communities and support socio-economic empowerment. This entire process is inseparable from the political role in each region which is an essential element in directing the

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success of development. According to Prasetya et al. (2021) infrastructure can be defined as all types of facilities needed by communities whether physical or non-physical to support various daily activities.

The endeavor to attain a better life and as a strategy or effort to seize and maintain power is referred to as politics (Ramadhani, 2020). Politics fundamentally constitutes a phenomenon closely intertwined with human life inherently interacting within society. Communities as the primary actors play a crucial function as a source of strength in driving the wheels of development (Firman, 2021). Sharma & Shahi. (2022) elucidate that political empowerment involves all stakeholder groups in society, including ethnic groups, women and the impoverished being afforded equal opportunities to determine their own futures. The development process can succeed when the government takes appropriate steps to realize community empowerment. Community empowerment is a development process that encourages community initiatives to actively engage in social activities for the improvement of their own situations and conditions (Pebriyani & Hermawan, 2021). The socio-economic quality within a system is determined by the presence of elements within it that ensure the fulfillment of interests at the general, private and individual levels both presently and in the future serving as its driving force (Frolova et al. 2020). Therefore with the assurance of such implementation infrastructure development can proceed in accordance with plans and expectations.

Infrastructure development is a highly crucial aspect in the context of National Development and plays a key role in driving Indonesia's economic growth (Ilhami & Pasundan, 2019). Infrastructure is essential for economic success and is associated with the goals of sustainable development, including health and well-being (Nair et al. 2020). According to Anguelov. (2021) infrastructure development can reduce regional disparities in energy efficiency although the effects vary depending on the type of infrastructure and diminish over time. Meanwhile, according to Tian et al. (2022) infrastructure development related to increased economic growth, competitiveness and productivity can enhance employment opportunities. This interconnection not only affects economic aspects but also shapes socio-economic networks in various community activities. Socioeconomics is characterized by ethical and humane principles with a focus on solidarity and shared responsibility towards marginalized social groups viewed as a tool for economic development and addressing social issues (Macías Ruano et al. 2021). According to Susanto. (2020) social impacts encompass the consequences or influences that emerge within communities because the event directly affects other elements within society. On the economic side it refers to the influence or consequences of an event condition or policy that causes positive or negative changes in economic conditions (Wati et al. 2020). Therefore, the government as a political actor is expected to have a concept of empowerment as a foundation for economic development that encompasses social values.

Community empowerment refers to a developmental process that encourages communities to take initiative in initiating social activities to enhance their own situations and conditions (Pebriyani & Hermawan, 2021). Meanwhile, according to Kamin et al. (2022) community empowerment refers to the relationship between community members and organizations that can enhance collective involvement aimed at increasing community control and influencing social justice and power relations within the broader society. Based on this exposition community empowerment can be defined as a developmental process aimed at encouraging active participation of community members in initiating and managing social activities to improve their welfare and social conditions. Local initiatives and collective participation in identifying and addressing the problems faced by the community itself are emphasized. Empowerment underscores that individuals acquire skills, knowledge and sufficient power to influence their own lives (Saleh & Sihite, 2020).

Some previous studies relevant to this topic include Dewi et al. (2023) and Muttalib & Mashur. (2019). The study conducted by Dewi et al. (2023) aimed to evaluate the impact of road infrastructure development on the growth of micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the Tanjung District, North Lombok Regency. In contrast the research conducted by Muttalib & Mashur. (2019) aimed to describe the social and economic conditions of the community in North Lombok Regency and evaluate strategies that can be implemented to restore the social and economic conditions of the community in the regency. Through a review of literature from various previous studies researchers gained valuable and fundamental insights. North Lombok Regency as the youngest regency in the region has faced significant challenges in advancing development across various sectors including accelerating economic development (Nur Khusnia et al. 2021). Sustainable infrastructure is crucial for socio-economic development and directly impacts over 80% of the UN SDG targets focusing on economic, social and environmental sustainability throughout the life cycle (Liu et al. 2023). The establishment of a positive relationship between the community and the government is key to collaborative efforts to achieve socio-economic empowerment of the community in North Lombok.

This research aims to examine "the impact and role of politics on infrastructure development and socio-economic empowerment of the community in North Lombok." The choice of North Lombok Regency stems from its recent establishment attributed to the active involvement of a prominent political figure Mr. Hj. Djohan Samsu who is widely recognized for his contributions to infrastructure development and socio-economic empowerment. Data from the Central Statistics Agency indicates that North Lombok Regency has the lowest poverty rate among the three regencies consistently observed from previous periods to the present. The study explores public perceptions and satisfaction regarding government management in resource allocation to fulfill community rights and obligations. This research topic remains largely unexplored by previous scholars. The research focuses on measuring the extent to which community well-being particularly in terms of infrastructure and socio-economic aspects is influenced by political engagement. This study is significant as it aims to comprehend and analyze the political influence on beneficial outcomes for the community during the development process. The findings of this research are expected to provide valuable contributions as an evaluation tool for regional development particularly in North Lombok Regency and serve as a reference for future studies.

## 2. METHOD

The methodology employed in this research utilizes a quantitative approach with a survey method. Data analysis is conducted using JASP (Jeffrey's Amazing Statistics Program) software to obtain comparative analysis results. JASP is a software tool that is nearly equivalent to SPSS offering functions for data manipulation and analysis. The primary focus of the research analysis is on hypothesis testing and regression analysis. Regression analysis is employed to assess the extent of influence of independent variables on the dependent variable. The research data consists of quantitative data obtained from questionnaires as primary data supplemented by observation sheets and interview sheets as secondary data to support the research findings. The number of respondents in the primary data collection is 110 while the number of respondents in the secondary data collection is 5 individuals including: the Village Head of Anyar in the Bayan District, the Chairman of the Village Consultative Body (BPD) of Salut Village in the Kayangan District, the Chairman of the BPD of Gondang Village in the Gangga District, the Chairman of the BPD of Jenggala Village in the Tanjung District, and a member of the BPD of East Pemenang Village in the Pemenang District. The research procedure follows the flowchart depicted in Figure 1.
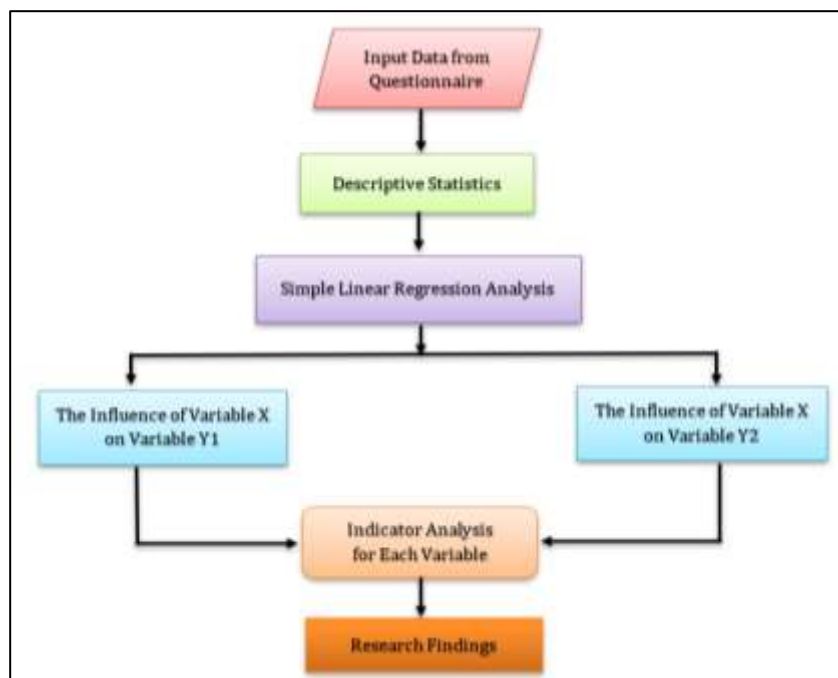


**Figure 1.** Research Flowchart

The research process commences with data collection through carefully designed questionnaires to extract relevant information aligned with the research objectives. The collected data is then descriptively analyzed using statistics involving calculations of mean, median, mode and standard deviation to provide a comprehensive overview of the data characteristics. Subsequently the research involves simple linear regression analysis to explore the relationship between the independent variable (X) and the dependent variables (Y1 and Y2). This regression analysis offers in-depth insights into the extent to which the independent variable can predict variations in the dependent variables through statistical significance measurement. The research can determine the extent to which variable X influences variables Y1 and Y2.

Specific exploration of the influence of the independent variable (X) on each dependent variable (Y1 and Y2) enables the detection of whether the relationship is positive negative or even insignificant. The researcher conducted hypothesis testing by obtaining a random sample from the population and performing hypothesis tests on the sample data using null and alternative hypotheses. If the p-value of the hypothesis test is below a certain significance level ($\alpha$ = 0.05) then the null hypothesis is rejected. Conversely, if the p-value is not less than a certain significance level ($\alpha$ = 0.05) then the null hypothesis is not rejected. Indicator analysis on each variable present in the questionnaire investigates their characteristics with the aim of identifying patterns or trends that may emerge in the data. The research findings are presented by synthesizing the main findings from each analysis step. In-depth discussion regarding the implications of the findings on the research conceptual framework alongside the discussion of research limitations and suggestions for future research ensures the significant academic and practical contribution of this research. The entire research process is designed to present credible, relevant and scientifically meaningful research outcomes.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Data analysis entails hypothesis testing on each variable to determine the mean, minimum and maximum values. The research findings will outline the general characteristics of the collected sample as per Table 1.

**Tabel 1.** Descriptive Statistics

|                | X       | Y1      | Y2      |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Valid          | 110     | 110     | 110     |
| Mean           | 76.018  | 73.727  | 73.737  |
| Std. Deviation | 12.619  | 14.236  | 13.680  |
| Variance       | 159.229 | 202.677 | 187.139 |
| Range          | 80.000  | 80.000  | 80.000  |
| Minimum        | 20.000  | 20.000  | 20.000  |
| Maximum        | 100.000 | 100.000 | 100.000 |

Table 1. provides an overview of the characteristics of the research variables namely political role (X), infrastructure development (Y1) and socio-economic empowerment of the community (Y2). The mean value of Political Role (X) at 76.018 indicates that respondents generally perceive their political role at around 76.018. The standard deviation of 12.619 indicates the extent to which the data is spread from the mean. The variance value of 159.229 implies the level of variation in responses. The range reaching 80.000 signifies the maximum difference between the highest and lowest values, with a minimum value of 20.000 and a maximum value of 100.000. For the infrastructure development variable (Y1), the mean of 73.727 indicates the overall perception level of infrastructure development. The relatively high standard deviation and variance (14.236 and 202.677) indicate significant variation in respondents' responses to infrastructure development. The same range value as variable X 80.000 reflects significant variation between the maximum and minimum values which are 100.000 and 20.000 respectively.

The variable socio-economic empowerment of the community (Y2) has a mean of 73.737 indicating respondents' perception of socio-economic empowerment of the community. The standard deviation and variance comparable to those of variable Y1 suggest similar variation in responses to this variable. The range value identical to variables X and Y1 at 80.000 reflects significant variation between the maximum and minimum values which are 100.000 and 20.000 respectively. These descriptive statistical results provide an in-depth understanding of the distribution and variation of data for each variable aiding in detailing the measurement context and interpretation within the research framework concerning political role, infrastructure development and socio-economic empowerment of the community.

**The Relationship Between Political Role and Infrastructure Development**

The results of the data obtained from the regression analysis of the variable political role (X) and the variable infrastructure development (Y1) can be used to demonstrate the relationship between them. The results of the model summary test in this study are presented in Table 2.

**Tabel 2.** Model Summary - Y1

| Model | R | $R^2$ | Adjusted $R^2$ | RMSE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| $H_0$ | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 14.236 |
| $H_1$ | 0.673 | 0.453 | 0.448 | 10.580 |

The influence of political role on infrastructure development has been presented in Table 2. summarizing the Model Summary results. The value of R at 0.673 indicates a positive relationship between political role and infrastructure development. The percentage of 67.3% indicates that the majority of the variation in infrastructure development can be explained by the political role variable highlighting the significant contribution of political role in the context of infrastructure development (R = 67.3%). The R-squared value of 45.3% provides information on the extent to which variation in infrastructure development can be attributed to political role. Approximately 45.3% of this variation can be explained by political role. The nearly equivalent value of Adjusted R Square at 0.448 measures the reliability of the model by considering the complexity of the independent variables. It confirms that after adjusting for the number of independent variables around 44.8% of the variation in infrastructure development can still be explained by political role.

The Standard Error of the Estimate value of 10.580 reflects the level of uncertainty in the model estimation. Based on this percentage it can be interpreted that the estimation of infrastructure development has an uncertainty level of approximately 10.58%. According to this interpretation these findings indicate that political role has a significant influence on infrastructure development and this regression model provides a substantial and relevant depiction of the relationship between these two variables. This interpretation is supported by the respective percentage values of the statistical metrics strengthening the validity of the analytical model in this study. Furthermore the results of the ANOVA analysis are presented in Table 3.

**Tabel 3.** ANOVA

| Model | | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $H_1$ | Regression | 10003.556 | 1 | 10003.556 | 89.375 | < .001 |
| | Residual | 12088.262 | 108 | 111.928 | | |
| | Total | 22091.818 | 109 | | | |

Table 3. displays the results of the ANOVA analysis to test the significance of the influence of political role on infrastructure development. The Sum of Squares value of 10003.556 indicates the total amount of variation in infrastructure development explained by the model. The Mean Square value also at 10003.556 is calculated by dividing the Sum of Squares by the degrees of freedom providing an insight into the average variation attributable to political role. Furthermore, the F value of 89.375 is used to test the significance of the model. This value is derived by comparing between-group variation with within-group variation. A higher F value suggests a greater likelihood of significant differences between groups. With an F value of 89.375 it can be concluded that the model overall has a significant impact on infrastructure development. The significance value (sig.) of 0.001 indicates that the obtained p-value is very low.

The commonly set significance level at 0.05 this very low p-value indicates that there is sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis that there is no influence of political role on infrastructure development. There is a significant relationship between political role and infrastructure development. This finding provides strong statistical support for the influence of political role on infrastructure development with the Anova values indicating the significance of the model and the relationship between the variables. This interpretation is based on the values of each relevant Anova component in this study. Furthermore, the results of the coefficients analysis are presented in Table 4.

**Tabel 4.** Coefficients

| Model | | Unstandardized | Standard Error | Standardized | t | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $H_0$ | (Intercept) | 73.727 | 1.357 | | 54.315 | < .001 |
| $H_1$ | (Intercept) | 16.015 | 6.187 | | 2.588 | 0.011 |
| | X | 0.759 | 0.080 | 0.673 | 9.454 | < .001 |

Table 4. presents the results of simple linear regression analysis for the variables under study with the regression equation Y = 16.015 + 0.759X1. The regression coefficient (B) value of 0.756 indicates that for every one-unit increase in the independent variable (X1) there is an associated increase of 0.756 in the dependent variable (Y). This positive coefficient depicts a positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables. The standard error (std. error) of 0.080 reflects the level of uncertainty in estimating the regression coefficient. A lower standard error value indicates a higher level of accuracy in the estimation. The relatively small standard error value suggests that the estimation of the regression coefficient can be considered reasonably accurate.

The Beta value of 0.673 measures the relative influence of the independent variable on the dependent variable. A Beta value approaching one indicates a strong and positive influence of the independent variable on the dependent variable consistent with the regression coefficient value. The t-statistic test with a value of 9.454 indicates that the regression coefficient is statistically significant. A high t-test value signifies that the difference between the estimated value and zero is statistically significant. The significance value (sig.) of 0.001 lower than the confidence level of 0.05 confirms that the relationship between the independent and dependent variables is statistically significant. With the regression equation Y = 16.015 + 0.759X1 it can be concluded that the independent variable X1 has a positive and significant effect on the dependent variable Y. This equation can be utilized to forecast the value of Y based on the given value of X1 contributing to a better understanding of the relationship between variables in simple linear regression.

**The Relationship Between Political Role and Socio-Economic Empowerment of the Community**

The data obtained from the regression analysis of the variables political role (X) and socio-economic empowerment of the community (Y2) can illustrate the influence between these two variables. The results of the model summary analysis are presented in Table 5.

**Tabel 5** Model Summary - Y2

| Model | R | $R^2$ | Adjusted $R^2$ | RMSE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| $H_0$ | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 13.680 |
| $H_1$ | 0.685 | 0.470 | 0.465 | 10.007 |

The regression model analysis regarding the influence of political role on socio-economic empowerment of the community is presented in Table 5. It provides information about the model summary offering insights into the quality and fit of the model. The value of R (the correlation between the independent and dependent variables) at 0.685 indicates a moderate positive relationship between political role and socio-economic empowerment of the community. The R-Square value of 0.470 suggests that approximately 47% of the variation in socio-economic empowerment of the community can be explained by the political role variable in this model. Thus, it can be determined to what extent the regression model is able to explain the variation in the dependent variable.

The Adjusted R-Square with a value of 0.465, takes into account the number of independent variables in the model providing a more conservative estimate of how well the model can explain the variation in socio-economic empowerment of the community. The closer the value is to R-Square, the better the model can explain the variation. The Std. Error of the estimate at 10.007 indicates how far the predicted values from the model can vary from the actual values. A lower value suggests that the model can better predict the socio-economic empowerment of the community. The results obtained from the model summary indicate that this regression model has a moderate ability to explain the relationship between political role and socio-economic empowerment of the community. Although some variation is still unexplained by the model these results provide a fairly strong insight into the contribution of political role in explaining the variation in socio-economic empowerment of the community. Further analysis of variance results are conducted as shown in Table 6.

**Tabel 6** ANOVA

| Model | | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $H_1$ | Regression | 9583.727 | 1 | 9583.727 | 95.710 | < .001 |
| | Residual | 10814.414 | 108 | 100.133 | | |
| | Total | 20398.141 | 109 | | | |

The analysis of the influence of political role on socio-economic empowerment of the community in Table 6 presents the results of the analysis of variance (ANOVA) providing an overview of the overall significance of the regression model. The Sum of Squares (SS) value of 9583.727 indicates the amount of variation in the data explained by the political role variable. The Mean Square (MS) also with a value of 9583.727 provides insight into the average variation attributable to the political role. Furthermore, the F-value of 95.710 results from comparing the variability explained by the regression model to the unexplained variability. A higher F-value indicates stronger evidence that the regression model has the power to explain the variation in socio-economic empowerment of the community.

The obtained significance value (sig.) of 0.001 indicates the significance level of the F-test. The very low significance value suggests that the regression model as a whole has a significant impact on the socio-economic empowerment of the community. The ANOVA results provide significant support for the relationship between political role and socio-economic empowerment of the community. The high F-value and low significance imply that the regression model collectively makes a substantial contribution to explaining the variation in socio-economic empowerment of the community and the political role plays an important role in this study. Next the analysis of coefficients is conducted in Table 7.

**Tabel 7** Coefficients

| Model | | Unstandardized | Standard Error | Standardized | t | p |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $H_0$ | (Intercept) | 73.737 | 1.304 | | 56.533 | < .001 |
| $H_1$ | (Intercept) | 17.249 | 5.852 | | 2.947 | 0.004 |
| | X | 0.743 | 0.076 | 0.685 | 9.783 | < .001 |

The analysis of the influence of political role on socio-economic empowerment of the community in Table 7 provides a detailed overview of the coefficients involved in the regression model. The research findings indicate that the regression coefficient (B) for the political role is 0.743 or 74.3%. This means that for every one-unit increase in the political role variable there is an associated increase of 0.743 units in socio-economic empowerment of the community. The Standard Error (Std. Error) of 0.076 indicates the extent of uncertainty in estimating these coefficients. The Beta coefficient of 0.685 indicates the level of relationship between political role and socio-economic empowerment of the community. A Beta value approaching one implies that the political role has a significant and positive impact on socio-economic empowerment of the community.

The results of the t-test indicate a value of 9.783 with a significance level (sig.) of 0.001. This figure confirms that the influence of political role on socio-economic empowerment of the community is statistically significant. The obtained results suggest that the political role plays a crucial role in enhancing socio-economic empowerment of the community. The regression equation Y = 17.249 + 0.743X2 provides information about the intercept value (17.249) indicating the level of socio-economic empowerment of the community when the political role has a value of zero. The coefficient of 0.743 signifies the contribution of the political role in enhancing socio-economic empowerment of the community. These findings demonstrate that the political role has a positive and significant impact on enhancing socio-economic empowerment of the community and provides a significant contribution to this research.

**Evaluation of Indicators regarding Political Role (X)**

The research findings of variable X with 10 different indicators inherit data showing the minimum, maximum, and mean levels as depicted in Figure 2.
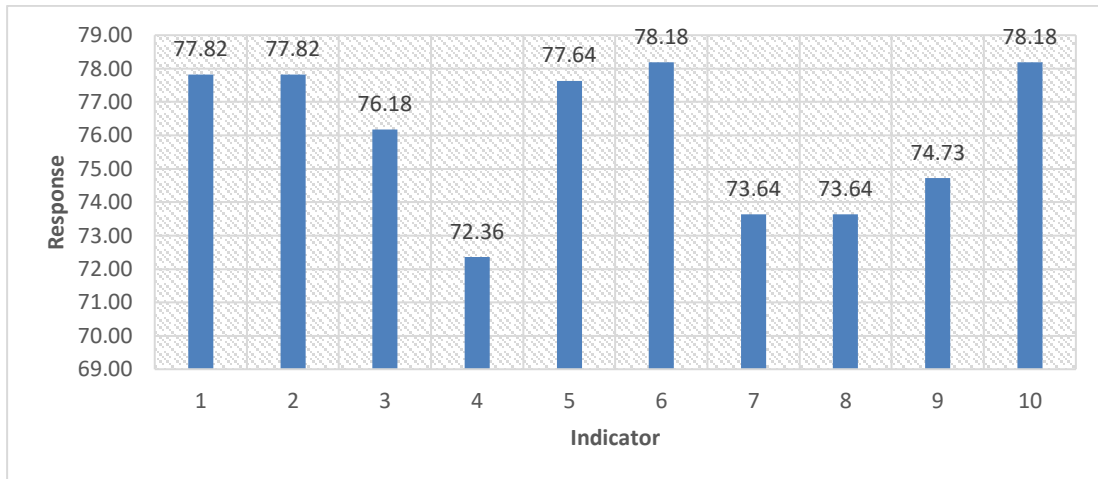
**Figure 2.** Statistical Diagram of the Political Role Variable (X)

The statistical diagram data in Figure 2. with a mean value reaching 76.02 indicates a positive trend in public perception regarding the political role, particularly regarding the indicator "The presence of political support can enhance access to education and healthcare services as well as other basic services." which reached a maximum value of 78.18. This result suggests that the majority of respondents view political involvement as an effective catalyst in improving community access to education, healthcare and other essential services. There is variability in public perception particularly regarding the indicator "Politics can be a determining factor in supporting the development of the local economy." which reached a minimum value of 72.36 This value indicates that some respondents have doubts about the political role as a determining factor in supporting local economic development. There may be a perception that local economic factors are influenced more by variables beyond political control.

The results from the above diagram lead to the conclusion that there is diversity in societal perspectives regarding the political role with the majority viewing it as a positive driver in enhancing welfare through basic services. However, some individuals express skepticism about the political impact on local economic development. This interpretation provides a deeper understanding of the complexity of societal perceptions regarding the political role in various aspects of life.

**Assessment of Indicators Regarding Infrastructure Development (Y1)**

The research findings for variable Y1 with 10 different indicators inherit data that indicates the minimum, maximum and mean levels as depicted in Figure 3.
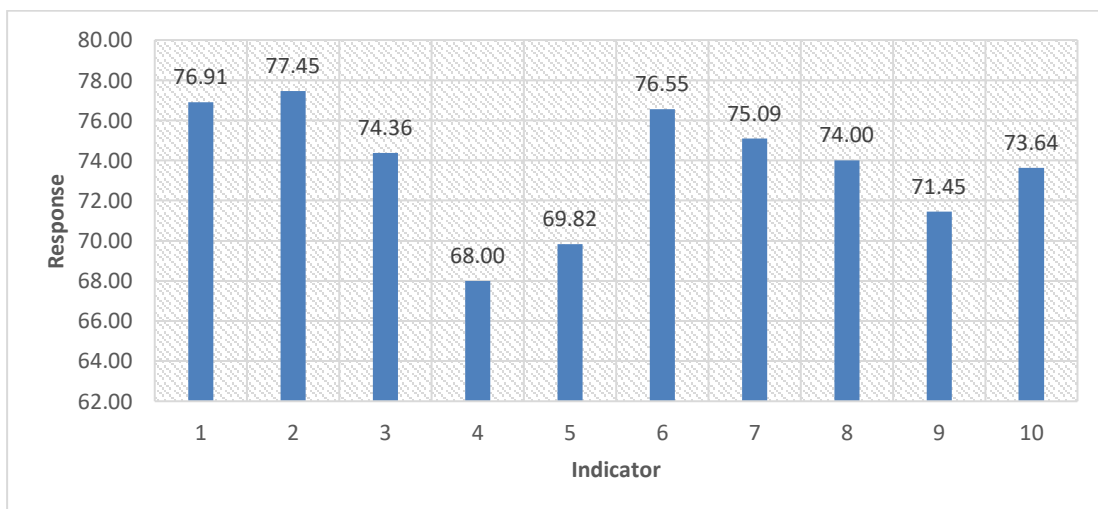


**Figure 3.** Statistical Diagram of Infrastructure Development Variable (Y1)

The statistical data in Table 3. with a mean value of 73.73 illustrates the public's perspectives on crucial aspects related to infrastructure development. The prominent indicator is "Infrastructure facilitates the distribution of local products." reaching a maximum value of 77.45 This reflects the strong belief among the public that infrastructure development significantly aids in facilitating the distribution of local products. The high scores on this indicator can be interpreted as a positive endorsement of government efforts to advance the infrastructure sector to support the local economy. Critical attention arises from the indicator "Budget allocation for infrastructure development meets the needs of the community." which reaches a minimum value of 68.00. This reflects skepticism or dissatisfaction among some members of the community regarding the effectiveness of budget allocation for infrastructure development. This low score reflects the perception that budget allocation does not fully align with the actual needs of the community. It highlights the potential mismatch between infrastructure policies and community expectations.

The findings from the above diagram provide a deeper understanding of the complexity of public perceptions regarding infrastructure development. Despite the positive conviction regarding the benefits of infrastructure in local product distribution doubts about budget allocation indicate the need for further evaluation in the planning and implementation of infrastructure development policies to align with the real needs of the community. This interpretation underscores the importance of government responsiveness to the aspirations and needs of the community in efforts to advance the infrastructure sector optimally.

**Assessment of Indicators on Community Socio-Economic Empowerment (Y2)**

The research results of variable Y2 with 9 different indicators inherit data displaying the minimum, maximum and mean levels as shown in Figure 4.
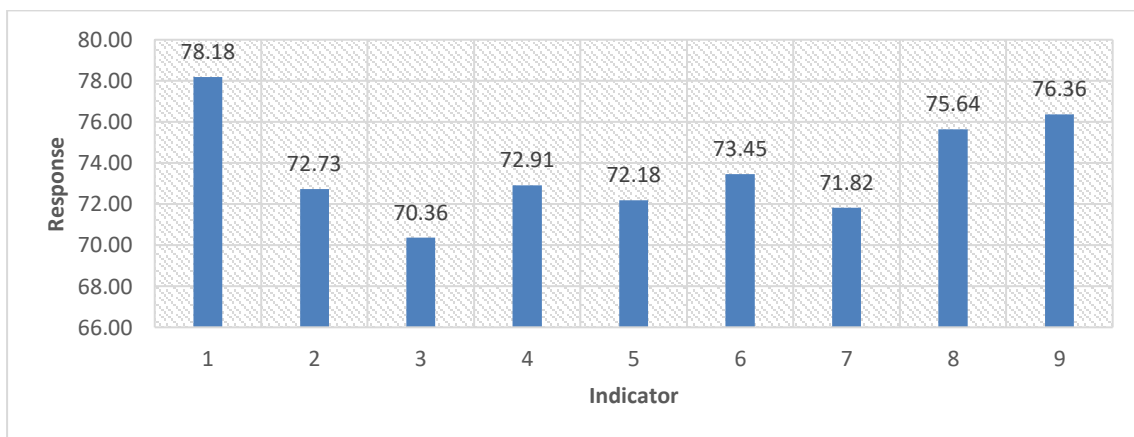


**Figure 4.** presents the Statistical Diagram of the Variable Socio-Economic Empowerment of the Community (Y2)

The statistical diagram regarding Socio-Economic Empowerment of the Community with a mean value of 73.74 reflects the community's perspective on socio-economic empowerment efforts. The indicator reaching a maximum value of 78.18 namely "Local political policies support socio-economic empowerment through training programs, skills development and empowerment of women's economics." indicates a strong belief that local political policies can significantly contribute to socio-economic empowerment especially through training and empowerment programs for women. This result reflects high support for policy initiatives that enhance community capacity and skills. The indicator "community political participation has a positive impact on improving family financial management capacity." reached a minimum value of 70.36. This value reflects a low perception that political participation has a positive impact on improving family financial management capacity. It indicates that political involvement is seen more as a general factor in the context of socio-economic empowerment while its concrete impact on family financial management is perceived as less significant. The results of the diagram above depict strong support for local political policies promoting socio-economic empowerment through various programs while also highlighting the diversity of perspectives regarding the direct impact of political participation on family financial management. This interpretation emphasizes the complexity of perceptions regarding the relationship between political policies, political participation and socio-economic empowerment.

The North Lombok Regency Government has endeavored to revitalize community activities, particularly in the aftermath of earthquakes and the COVID-19 pandemic in recent years given the significant damage and losses experienced by the populace. The role of village governments is also deemed crucial in reassessing the needs of the people for collective recovery. Infrastructure development and socio-economic empowerment of communities have emerged as focal points requiring particular attention in the social landscape. This notion is further elucidated by Asha & Makalela. (2020) emphasizing that local governance remains pivotal in ensuring effective delivery of services and basic infrastructure. This represents a tangible effort to uplift communities from vulnerability, encompassing knowledge, attitudes and practices toward fostering positive attitudes, mental resilience, behavioral change and skill mastery (Firman, 2021). Furthermore Asha & Makalela. (2020) extend this discourse by affirming that the developmental role entrusted to village governments necessitates adequate administrative capacity and the implementation of sound strategic frameworks.

The policy of the Bayan Village government in promoting community economic empowerment involves providing tools and training to residents in entrepreneurship and economics. This policy is envisioned to foster participatory governance involving all segments of society in stable socio-economic empowerment. However thus far communities have not effectively leveraged these government policies as the concrete effectiveness of the initiation process remains elusive. One of the development goals is poverty alleviation, which can be addressed through infrastructure development (Nurmala & Hutagaol, 2022). Community participation is valued both as a means to achieve dynamic and socially equitable development processes and as a primary objective that promotes active citizenship and democratic engagement (Supriyanto et al, 2022). Community participation is vital to support development initiatives and socio-economic empowerment.

The political role with a maximum value of 78% towards "Political support can enhance access to education, healthcare and other basic services" is perceived as highly significant by the community compared to the minimum value of 72% towards "Politics can be a determining factor in supporting local economic development." In line with research Khusaini et al. (2023) the government's ability to assist in providing infrastructure such as housing, education, electricity and sanitation has a direct impact on the quality of life health, culture, recreation, psychology, physical health, environment and community welfare.

Information provided by the head of the Village Consultative Board (BPD) of Kayangan District indicates an increase in empowerment through the utilization of local resources such as the establishment of women farmers' groups selling locally processed coffee and honey harvested locally. These efforts have been able to reach markets beyond the region. In contrast information from a member of the BPD of Pemenang District suggests that there is already significant production of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the community but marketing channels have not been effectively managed. According to Kurniati. (2023) the geographical conditions and infrastructure in Lombok pose logistical challenges and high shipping costs. This indicates a low level of community trust and disagreement regarding the notion that politics determines local economic development. This suggests that the community has not fully benefited from local government policies aimed at economic development, but rather believes that there are other factors supporting economic development besides politics alone such as the solidarity of indigenous communities. The access provided by politics is considered influential because the community perceives that improvements in education such as assistance with school enrollment are still difficult without political intervention including access to healthcare and other basic services. In line with information provided by the head of the BPD of Gondang the community is fragmented by politics and remains loyal to their respective political factions.

According to the head of the Village Consultative Board (BPD) of Gondang, political education is deemed crucial as grassroots empowerment necessitates a populace that is not only astute but also critical in assessing political assumptions. Waridin et al. (2018) assert that community involvement at the grassroots level from planning to project implementation is pivotal. Projects managed by communities tend to be better administered and maintained. Communities can collaborate with project developers and address various project aspects thereby enhancing the capacity of rural communities. Communities possess significant potential in terms of both natural resources and socio-cultural aspects (Hariyanto, 2021).

Infrastructure development with a maximum value of 77% towards "Infrastructure facilitates the distribution of local products." underscores the community's dire need for infrastructure assistance to conduct their economic activities. One example is the widening of a highway in 2024 spanning 41.60 km inaugurated as a national road in North Lombok Regency which not only facilitates access to economic activities but also enhances social interaction within the community. Consistent with research

conducted by Zainuri & Sjah. (2023)the support service subsystem appears to play a more decisive role than other subsystems in improving service delivery. Informants also note that the benefit of infrastructure development lies in facilitating socio-economic mobility within the community. However, this is not consistent with the minimum value of 68% towards "Budget allocation for infrastructure development according to community needs." This implies that demographically areas that have not experienced infrastructure development tend to disagree with this statement. Hence there is an urgent need for more equitable distribution of infrastructure development in remote areas to achieve balanced development. For example, Rempek village one of the date-producing areas in Lombok holds potential for economic growth. Similarly, the eastern part of Lombok also has date-producing potential which has created numerous employment opportunities for the residents of North Lombok. Thus, evenly distributed infrastructure development can significantly support greater profit margins.

The socio-economic empowerment of communities with a maximum value of 78% towards the indicator "Local political policies support socio-economic empowerment through training programs, skill development and empowerment of women's economic roles." The explanation provided by the Head of the Village Development Agency (BPD) of Kayangan highlights the effectiveness of programs such as women farmer groups in line with research Madonda. (2021) which states that empowering rural women with socio-economic skills can help alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development thereby benefiting their socio-economic and political welfare. The creation of jobs and the empowerment of rural women are crucial for socio-economic development (Bhati & Bhadu, 2023). In the North Lombok region, the majority of women work as entrepreneurs and laborers to support their families' economies. Many of these working women are from non-educated or even dropout backgrounds. Education is not always an option for everyone due to the economic burden of continuing education. Therefore, the government plays a significant role in assessing the situation of such communities alongside the myriad family needs.

Behind this the minimum value of 70% towards "Community political participation has a positive impact on enhancing family financial management capacity" indicates a low level of trust among the community regarding political participation aimed at improving family finances. This is consistent with the statement of the Head of the Village Development Agency (BPD) of Gondang indicating that the community remains divided in their choices. Therefore, it is challenging to engage in political participation solely for the purpose of improving family finances. For the community it is still difficult to believe that political participation will always have a positive impact on family finances. The community remains a working community while the government is formed by the community itself which has the power to govern. The difference lies only in power. Nepotism is prevalent everywhere not just as a myth but because the people of North Lombok find it difficult to find jobs even with qualifications. Everything is not detached from political interference which is considered common by the community. The community works according to their own efforts and becomes self-reliant because they know that not everyone who participates in politics always benefits.

Based on these implications Frolova et al. (2020) asserts that support for planned operational methods from various systems at different levels and contents are consolidated into a unified entity through the quality of relationships and connections designed to maintain integrity and facilitate movement along planned paths that remain relatively unchanged over a certain period. While somewhat complex, these implications are remarkable upon closer examination. The government's role here is not only to facilitate certain individuals but also to consider other conditions. Hence the significant value strongly agrees with the statement "Local political policies support socio-economic empowerment through training programs, skill development and empowerment of women's economic roles." It is not just women but in reality, women are the ones who work the most besides taking care of children and household chores women also have to contribute to earning a living to support the family's economy. This may not be a problem for some people but the most common cause of divorce is family economic issues. Communities do not always receive a fixed salary with changing jobs which typically occurs among middle to lower-income groups. As stated by Leven. (2023) the growth of the middle class generally implies a decrease in income inequality, poverty and government entitlements leading to more funding for public goods and political stability. Systematic socio-economic issues weaken self-regulation for example through ego depletion as strong will may diminish due to the loss of consumption opportunities (Jungkunz & Marx, 2021).

## 4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the data analysis results there are interesting findings regarding the influence of political roles on infrastructure development and socioeconomic empowerment of the community in

North Lombok. This study indicates that political roles have a significant influence on both aspects with a percentage of influence of 45.3% on infrastructure development and 47% on socioeconomic empowerment of the community. The conclusion drawn from these findings is that political roles play a crucial role in determining the direction of infrastructure development and socio-economic empowerment of the community in North Lombok. The repercussions of overlooked matters spread like the roots of a tree, reaching far and wide. Not all members of society consistently view politics as beneficial for improving quality of life. At times politics also engenders profound disparities. Communities greatly require both political support and adequate infrastructure to enhance socioeconomic mobility. Infrastructure improvement in the North Lombok region is beginning to manifest in certain areas but has yet to extend uniformly to remote areas that remain severely lacking. The lowest scores also demonstrate a lack of community trust in budget allocations for infrastructure development in accordance with societal needs. This responsibility falls on the government to address such areas. However, political support for enhancing community livelihoods has been programmed but not yet realized due to insufficient political participation and low public trust in politics. This is because political education within the community has not been effective in deterring the consumption of political assumptions solely for personal gain. Instead of benefiting if favored candidates fail to secure positions individuals aligned with such factions are susceptible to experiencing disparities. Politics evolves in complexity with each period. Therefore, the political role in infrastructure development and community empowerment should take into account the impacts of these factors. Once in power, it is advisable not to show favoritism but rather focus on collective upliftment as encapsulated in the motto of North Lombok District *tioq, tataq, tunaq*, meaning growth order and gratitude or preservation. This suggests that good political policies can have a positive impact on development and community welfare. For further research it is recommended to conduct a more in-depth analysis of the mechanisms or specific factors that act as mediators or moderators in the relationship between political roles and infrastructure development and socioeconomic empowerment of the community. Further studies may also consider the influence of other variables that may affect the relationship between political roles and these two aspects such as economic, socio-cultural or community environmental factors. Furthermore, the novelty of research also needs to be considered by examining various aspects and conditions in social life because studying social sciences means studying ways of life while studying politics means studying how to wield power correctly. Human life is inseparable from social interactions that involve rights and obligations. Various perspectives will bring forth something new. Therefore before taking action it is essential to first understand the issues raised in a research study.

## 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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