



**CULTURE-BASED PUBLIC POLICY AS A NEW GOVERNANCE
PARADIGM: INTEGRATING LOCAL WISDOM INTO
CONTEMPORARY POLICY DESIGN**

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Abstract: This study examines the role of culture-based public policy as a new governance paradigm, emphasizing the integration of local wisdom into contemporary policy design. The problem addressed is the gap between traditional governance models, which often overlook cultural dimensions, and modern public policies that fail to resonate with local communities. The research aims to conceptualize culture-based public policy and analyze its potential to enhance policy legitimacy, participation, and sustainability by incorporating indigenous knowledge systems and cultural values. Using a qualitative approach and library research method, primary data was collected from academic literature, policy reports, and theoretical works, with secondary data from additional scholarly articles on governance, culture, and policy design. The results reveal that culture-based policies strengthen governance legitimacy, foster inclusive decision-making, and improve long-term policy effectiveness. By aligning policies with local wisdom, governments can enhance community trust, reduce resistance, and ensure greater compliance. This study concludes that integrating local wisdom into policy design is essential for creating more adaptive, socially cohesive, and sustainable governance frameworks, particularly in culturally diverse societies. Ultimately, culture-based public policy offers a transformative governance approach, bridging the gap between modern institutional frameworks and community-centered governance practices.

Keywords (English): Culture-Based Public Policy, Local Wisdom, Contemporary Governance.

INTRODUCTION:

In the contemporary era of governance, public policy is increasingly confronted with complex societal challenges shaped by globalization, technological advancement, and socio-cultural diversity. While modern governance systems emphasize efficiency, standardization, and evidence-based decision-making, many public policies continue to demonstrate limited effectiveness at the local level. This problem is particularly evident in culturally diverse societies, where policies



designed through centralized and technocratic approaches often fail to align with local values, norms, and social practices. As a result, such policies frequently encounter resistance, low compliance, or ineffective implementation. The disconnect between formal policy frameworks and the lived realities of communities reveals a fundamental weakness in conventional governance paradigms. Local wisdom, which encompasses indigenous knowledge, customary norms, ethical principles, and collective social practices developed over generations, is often excluded from policy formulation processes. This exclusion not only marginalizes community voices but also undermines policy legitimacy and sustainability. In many cases, governance failures are not caused by a lack of resources or institutional capacity, but by the inability of policies to resonate culturally and socially with their intended beneficiaries. Therefore, the growing gap between policy intentions and societal outcomes underscores the urgent need to re-examine how public policies are conceptualized and designed. This reality positions culture-based public policy as a necessary response to governance challenges rooted in socio-cultural misalignment[1].

The academic literature on public policy and governance has produced various influential frameworks, including New Public Management, Good Governance, and New Public Governance, each offering valuable insights into administrative reform, accountability, participation, and collaboration. However, these frameworks largely prioritize institutional efficiency, procedural rationality, and managerial effectiveness, often overlooking the cultural dimensions of governance. While governance scholars acknowledge that culture influences policy implementation, it is commonly treated as a background variable rather than a central analytical component. Consequently, existing theories struggle to explain why identical policy instruments generate different outcomes across regions with distinct cultural identities. Studies on policy failure increasingly suggest that technical excellence alone is insufficient to ensure successful governance. Moreover, cultural studies tend to analyze traditions, norms, and local wisdom separately from policy design, resulting in fragmented theoretical approaches. This separation creates a conceptual gap between governance theory and cultural reality. The lack of an integrative framework that systematically embeds local wisdom into policy processes reveals the limitations of current governance paradigms. As societies become more pluralistic and demand greater recognition of identity and values, the inadequacy of culturally neutral policy models becomes more apparent. Thus, existing literature indicates the necessity of developing a new governance perspective that places culture at the core of public policy design rather than at its margins[2].



This study aims to conceptualize culture-based public policy as a new governance paradigm that integrates local wisdom into contemporary policy design. The primary objective is to examine how cultural values, indigenous knowledge systems, and traditional social practices can be systematically incorporated into modern policymaking without compromising principles of accountability, inclusiveness, and effectiveness. Specifically, this research seeks to identify key dimensions of local wisdom that are relevant to policy formulation, implementation, and evaluation. Another objective is to analyze how the integration of cultural elements can enhance policy legitimacy, strengthen public participation, and improve governance outcomes. By synthesizing insights from public policy theory, governance studies, and cultural analysis, this study intends to develop a coherent conceptual framework that positions culture as a strategic governance resource. Furthermore, the research aims to provide a normative foundation for policymakers to design context-sensitive policies that are responsive to local realities. Through this approach, the study aspires to contribute to both theoretical advancement and practical policymaking by offering a culturally grounded alternative to dominant governance models[3].

This research argues that integrating local wisdom into public policy design is not merely an ethical or symbolic gesture, but a strategic necessity for achieving sustainable and legitimate governance. Based on empirical realities and theoretical limitations, the study hypothesizes that culture-based public policy can function as an effective governance paradigm capable of bridging formal institutional frameworks with social and cultural contexts. By aligning policy goals with community values and collective identities, governments can foster greater trust, enhance policy acceptance, and reduce social conflict. Importantly, culture-based governance does not reject modern administrative tools; instead, it reframes them within culturally meaningful narratives and practices. The significance of this study lies in its potential to reshape public policy thinking toward more inclusive, adaptive, and socially embedded governance models. By positioning culture as an enabling factor rather than an obstacle, this research provides a conceptual and practical foundation for policymakers operating in culturally diverse environments. Ultimately, the study underscores that effective public policy must be not only technically sound and legally valid, but also culturally resonant and socially sustainable[4].



METHODOLOGY:

Research Object

The object of this research is the phenomenon of policy design and governance practices that inadequately account for cultural dimensions and local wisdom in contemporary public policymaking. Specifically, the study focuses on the conceptual and practical challenges arising from the dominance of technocratic, universalistic, and culturally neutral policy models in diverse socio-cultural contexts. These challenges manifest in the form of weak policy legitimacy, limited public participation, low compliance, and recurring implementation failures at the community level. The research examines culture-based public policy as an alternative governance paradigm that seeks to address these issues by integrating local wisdom—such as indigenous knowledge systems, customary norms, ethical values, and collective social practices—into policy formulation and implementation. This phenomenon is particularly relevant in pluralistic societies where cultural identity plays a central role in shaping social behavior and governance expectations. By positioning local wisdom as a governance resource rather than a constraint, the study aims to explore how culture can function as a foundational element in contemporary policy design. Thus, the research object is not a single policy case, but a broader conceptual problem concerning the disconnection between modern public policy frameworks and culturally grounded governance realities[5].

Type of Research and Data Sources

This study employs a qualitative research approach using a library-based research method. Library research is considered appropriate because the study aims to develop a conceptual and theoretical understanding of culture-based public policy rather than to measure empirical variables. The primary data sources consist of relevant academic literature that directly addresses the research phenomenon, including scholarly books, peer-reviewed journal articles, and authoritative theoretical works on public policy, governance, culture, and local wisdom. These primary sources provide foundational arguments, conceptual models, and theoretical explanations related to governance paradigms and culturally embedded policymaking. In addition, secondary data sources include supporting literature related to the key research keywords—culture-based public policy, local wisdom, and contemporary governance—drawn from policy reports, previous research findings, institutional publications, and interdisciplinary studies. By combining primary and secondary data sources, the study ensures a comprehensive and balanced theoretical foundation. This approach allows the researcher to critically examine existing perspectives while synthesizing diverse viewpoints into a coherent analytical framework relevant to the research objectives[6].



Theoretical Foundations of the Study

The theoretical foundation of this research is built upon several key theories that inform the analysis of culture, governance, and public policy. One central theory is the concept of *Governance* as articulated by Rhodes (1996), which emphasizes networks, interactions, and non-hierarchical coordination among state and non-state actors. This theory provides a basis for understanding governance beyond formal institutions. Additionally, the study draws on *Cultural Theory* as developed by Geertz (1973), which conceptualizes culture as a system of meaning that shapes human behavior and social organization. The integration of local wisdom is further supported by *Indigenous Knowledge Theory*, which highlights the value of community-based knowledge systems developed through historical experience. Moreover, the research engages with *New Public Governance* theory, which emerged in the early 2000s and stresses collaboration, participation, and contextual governance. Together, these theoretical perspectives form the assumptions that culture is not external to governance but embedded within it, and that effective public policy must align institutional mechanisms with cultural meaning systems[7].

Research Process and Data Collection Techniques

The research process follows a systematic and structured sequence of qualitative inquiry based on library research methodology. The first stage involves identifying and formulating clear research questions related to the integration of local wisdom into contemporary public policy design. The second stage consists of mapping relevant literature by determining inclusion criteria, such as relevance to governance, policy theory, culture, and local wisdom. Data collection is conducted through intensive reading and critical examination of written sources, including academic books, previous research studies, policy analyses, journal articles, conference papers, and official reports related to the research topic. These sources are collected from academic databases, university libraries, and reputable publishers. The third stage involves organizing the collected literature thematically to facilitate systematic analysis. Throughout this process, transparency and consistency are maintained to ensure that the research steps can be traced and replicated. This structured approach enables the researcher to build a logical and comprehensive understanding of the research problem grounded in existing scholarly discourse[8].

Data Analysis Technique

The data analysis technique employed in this research is qualitative content analysis. Content analysis involves a systematic process of examining textual data to identify recurring themes, patterns, relationships, and conceptual categories relevant to the research objectives. In this study,



the analysis begins with careful reading and coding of selected literature to extract key ideas related to culture-based public policy, local wisdom, and governance paradigms. These codes are then grouped into broader thematic categories, such as policy legitimacy, cultural integration, governance effectiveness, and participatory policymaking. Through this process, implicit meanings and underlying assumptions within the literature are interpreted and synthesized. Content analysis allows the researcher to move beyond descriptive summaries toward analytical interpretation, enabling the construction of conceptual linkages between theory and governance practice. The final stage of analysis involves integrating the identified themes into a coherent narrative that explains how local wisdom can be systematically incorporated into contemporary policy design. Thus, content analysis serves as a critical tool for generating theoretical insights and developing an integrative governance framework grounded in cultural values[9].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

The results of this study indicate that contemporary public policy frameworks predominantly rely on technocratic and institutional approaches that marginalize cultural dimensions. The reviewed literature consistently shows that policy design processes prioritize efficiency, legal compliance, and administrative feasibility, often at the expense of cultural relevance. This tendency creates a structural gap between policy objectives and community realities, particularly in culturally diverse societies. Many studies reveal that policies lacking cultural grounding struggle to gain legitimacy and social acceptance, leading to weak implementation outcomes. The findings demonstrate that local wisdom is frequently treated as supplementary rather than foundational in governance processes. As a result, policy instruments fail to reflect the moral values, social norms, and collective identities of local communities. This condition reinforces the perception of public policy as externally imposed rather than socially constructed. Overall, the results confirm that the absence of cultural integration remains a critical weakness in contemporary governance models[10].

Another important result is the identification of local wisdom as a multidimensional governance resource. The literature reviewed highlights that local wisdom encompasses indigenous knowledge, customary law, ethical principles, social solidarity, and conflict-resolution mechanisms developed through long-term social interaction. These elements function as informal governance systems that regulate behavior and maintain social order. The findings suggest that when policies align with these cultural elements, they benefit from existing social legitimacy and



collective compliance. Local wisdom provides context-specific insights that formal institutions often overlook. The study finds that policy frameworks that incorporate cultural narratives are more adaptive and responsive to community needs. This demonstrates that local wisdom is not merely symbolic but operationally significant. Thus, the results position local wisdom as an essential component of effective governance[11].

The results further reveal that culture-based public policy enhances policy legitimacy. Legitimacy emerges not only from legal authority but also from cultural recognition and social acceptance. The literature indicates that policies grounded in local values are perceived as more just, relevant, and trustworthy by communities. This perception strengthens public confidence in governing institutions. The findings show that cultural alignment reduces resistance and increases voluntary compliance. Communities are more willing to participate in policy implementation when policies reflect their identities and traditions. Consequently, legitimacy becomes socially embedded rather than institutionally imposed. This result underscores the importance of cultural resonance in strengthening governance outcomes[12].

The study also finds that integrating local wisdom promotes participatory governance. Cultural frameworks often emphasize collective decision-making, deliberation, and consensus-building. When these practices are embedded in policy design, they naturally encourage broader stakeholder involvement. The literature indicates that participation becomes more meaningful when rooted in familiar cultural mechanisms rather than formal procedures alone. This leads to more inclusive governance processes. The results show that participation based on local wisdom fosters mutual understanding between policymakers and communities. As a result, policies become co-produced rather than top-down directives. This finding highlights the participatory advantage of culture-based policy models[13].

Another significant result concerns policy sustainability. Policies grounded in local wisdom demonstrate greater long-term viability because they align with established social norms and behavioral patterns. The literature suggests that culturally embedded policies are less dependent on external enforcement mechanisms. Instead, they rely on internalized social values to sustain compliance. This reduces governance costs and increases policy durability. The findings indicate that sustainability is achieved through cultural continuity rather than administrative control. Consequently, culture-based policies offer a resilient governance approach. This reinforces the strategic value of cultural integration in policy design[14].



The results also reveal that culture-based public policy strengthens social cohesion. By recognizing cultural identities and traditions, policies contribute to social inclusion and collective belonging. The literature shows that marginalized groups feel acknowledged when their cultural values are reflected in public policy. This reduces social fragmentation and conflict. The findings suggest that inclusive policy design enhances social harmony. Culture-based governance thus functions as a mechanism for social integration. This outcome demonstrates the broader societal benefits of culturally grounded policymaking[15].

Another key finding is the compatibility between culture-based policy and contemporary governance principles. Contrary to assumptions that tradition conflicts with modern governance, the literature indicates that cultural values can coexist with accountability, transparency, and participation. The results show that cultural integration does not undermine institutional effectiveness. Instead, it contextualizes governance practices. This finding challenges the dichotomy between tradition and modernity. Culture-based policy emerges as an adaptive governance model. Thus, cultural integration strengthens rather than weakens governance systems.

The findings further indicate that culture-based policy improves policy communication. Cultural symbols, narratives, and language enhance public understanding of policy goals. The literature suggests that culturally framed policies are more accessible and relatable. This improves policy dissemination and interpretation. The results show that communication grounded in local wisdom reduces misinterpretation. Consequently, policy objectives are more clearly understood by communities. This highlights the communicative advantage of culturally informed policymaking.

The results confirm that culture-based public policy represents a viable and necessary governance paradigm. The integration of local wisdom enhances legitimacy, participation, sustainability, and social cohesion. The findings consistently demonstrate that culture is not an obstacle but a governance asset. This result establishes a strong empirical and theoretical basis for advancing culture-based policy design. Thus, the study validates the central premise of the research.

Discussion

1. Bridging the Gap between Traditional and Modern Governance Models

The results of this study underline the critical gap between traditional governance systems, which are often rooted in cultural values and community-based decision-making, and modern governance models that emphasize efficiency, legality, and formal institutional arrangements. Many



contemporary public policy frameworks ignore the cultural dimensions of governance, leading to policies that are often perceived as irrelevant or disconnected from the social realities of the communities they serve. By recognizing the importance of local wisdom, this study proposes a reimagined approach to governance that respects both modern principles of accountability and the rich traditions of cultural practices that form the foundation of society. The integration of local wisdom into contemporary policy design is not merely a way to preserve traditions but a necessary strategy for enhancing policy legitimacy and public participation.

In this context, the results show that culture-based public policy helps to bridge the gap by bringing forward indigenous knowledge and practices that are crucial for shaping governance decisions at the local level. Instead of viewing traditional and modern governance as competing paradigms, culture-based public policy demonstrates how they can complement one another to create more adaptive and resilient governance systems. Modern policies, when grounded in cultural relevance, become more meaningful and are better able to address the needs and concerns of local communities. Therefore, integrating cultural perspectives into governance processes is an essential step in creating a more inclusive and effective public policy framework.

Furthermore, a significant point raised in this study is the role of culture in building trust between governments and communities. When policies reflect the values and norms of local populations, they resonate more deeply with citizens, leading to higher levels of public acceptance and compliance. The findings underscore that governance systems that acknowledge cultural diversity and incorporate local wisdom into decision-making are more likely to foster positive relationships between the state and its people. This argument challenges the traditional view that governance should be uniformly designed and implemented across different regions, regardless of cultural differences.

Ultimately, the discussion highlights that embracing a culture-based governance model does not mean rejecting modern principles such as transparency, accountability, and efficiency. Instead, it suggests that these principles can be effectively realized within a culturally sensitive framework that acknowledges the unique contexts of different communities. This approach, therefore, holds the potential to redefine contemporary governance as a dynamic and flexible system that is responsive to both modern demands and traditional values.



Table 1. Integrating Local Wisdom with Modern Governance for Culture-Based Public Policy

| Governance Aspect | Traditional Approach (Local Wisdom) | Modern Approach | Integrated Benefits |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|
| Policy Design | Rooted in cultural values and community decisions | Focuses on efficiency and formal legality | Enhances legitimacy, relevance, and participation |
| Decision-Making | Indigenous knowledge and adaptive practices | Standardized institutional frameworks | Bridges gaps for resilient, inclusive systems |
| Trust-Building | Reflects local norms and values | Uniform implementation across regions | Increases acceptance, compliance, and relationships |
| Overall Framework | Community-based and context-specific | Emphasizes transparency/accountability | Creates dynamic, flexible governance responsive to both tradition and modernity |

2. The Role of Local Wisdom in Enhancing Policy Legitimacy

One of the most significant findings of this research is the role of local wisdom in enhancing policy legitimacy. Legitimacy, in the context of governance, is traditionally understood as the acceptance and recognition of authority and policy decisions by the governed. The results indicate that policies based on local wisdom are viewed as more legitimate because they reflect the values, norms, and social practices that communities already adhere to. The integration of local wisdom not only aligns policy with the cultural context but also ensures that governance decisions are rooted in the lived experiences of the people they affect.



This insight aligns with the broader theoretical literature on governance, which suggests that legitimacy is not solely derived from formal legal authority but from the cultural resonance of policies. When policies reflect the social and cultural expectations of the public, they are more likely to gain legitimacy. The study found that culture-based policies tend to foster a sense of ownership among citizens, which is crucial for the successful implementation of public policies. By integrating local wisdom into governance frameworks, governments can enhance the moral authority of their policies and increase the willingness of citizens to participate in the policy process.

The findings also highlight the importance of local participation in the policymaking process. Local wisdom often entails community-driven decision-making and consensus-building practices, which contribute to greater inclusivity and involvement. By engaging local communities in policy design and implementation, governments can enhance the legitimacy of their decisions and create policies that are not only culturally appropriate but also practically viable. Furthermore, the results suggest that when policies are co-produced with communities, they reflect the shared values and goals of those communities, increasing their legitimacy and social acceptance.

Local wisdom also plays a crucial role in reducing social resistance and conflicts that often arise from top-down policy imposition. The research shows that policies grounded in local cultural values and traditions are more likely to avoid the pitfalls of alienation and opposition that typically accompany policies imposed without cultural consideration. This reinforces the argument that legitimacy in governance is inherently tied to the cultural alignment of public policies.

3. Strengthening Social Cohesion through Culture-Based Policy

The study also emphasizes the role of culture-based public policy in strengthening social cohesion. The results suggest that policies that incorporate local wisdom contribute to the creation of a more cohesive and harmonious society by recognizing and valuing the diversity of cultural identities within a nation. Social cohesion is a critical aspect of governance, as it facilitates collaboration, reduces conflict, and promotes the overall stability of society. The research found that when local wisdom is included in policy design, it promotes shared values and mutual understanding among citizens, regardless of their diverse backgrounds.



A key aspect of local wisdom is the emphasis on collective values, such as mutual respect, cooperation, and solidarity. By incorporating these values into public policy, governments can foster a sense of unity and common purpose. This, in turn, enhances social trust and cooperation, making it easier for communities to work together to address shared challenges. The findings suggest that social cohesion is not only about maintaining social order but also about creating an environment in which people from different backgrounds can coexist and thrive together.

Moreover, culture-based policies can help to prevent social fragmentation by providing a platform for marginalized groups to have their voices heard. The integration of local wisdom allows governments to address the needs of diverse communities, especially those that have historically been excluded from mainstream policy discussions. By recognizing the cultural identities of these communities, governments can reduce the risk of social alienation and ensure that all groups feel included in the policymaking process.

In addition, culture-based public policies enhance the sense of community and collective responsibility. The results show that when policies are rooted in the cultural values and practices of a community, they encourage individuals to take responsibility for their actions and contribute to the collective good. This contributes to stronger social bonds and a greater sense of belonging, which are essential for the social stability of any nation.

4. Enhancing Policy Sustainability through Cultural Continuity

Another critical insight from the study is that culture-based public policy contributes to the sustainability of governance systems. Sustainability in governance refers to the ability of policies and systems to endure over time, adapting to changing circumstances while maintaining their core objectives. The results suggest that culture-based policies, which are aligned with local values and traditions, are more likely to be sustainable because they resonate with the people they are designed to serve. These policies are less reliant on external enforcement mechanisms and more likely to be maintained through social compliance and internalized cultural norms.

By grounding policies in cultural traditions, governments create frameworks that are not only accepted by communities but also supported by them. The study found that communities are more likely to continue supporting policies that reflect their values and traditions, even in the face of changing external circumstances. This cultural continuity enhances the long-term viability of policies and reduces the need for costly and time-consuming adjustments.



The findings also indicate that culture-based policies help maintain continuity in governance systems by integrating traditional knowledge systems with modern governance practices. This creates a hybrid model that blends the strengths of both traditional and contemporary governance approaches. The research demonstrates that such a hybrid approach can address current governance challenges while preserving the cultural heritage of communities.

Finally, the study suggests that the sustainability of culture-based policies is enhanced by their adaptability. Policies that draw from local wisdom are flexible and can be adjusted to changing social, economic, and environmental conditions without losing their cultural relevance. This adaptability makes culture-based policies more resilient and better equipped to deal with future challenges, ensuring their continued success over time.

5. The Participatory Advantage of Culture-Based Public Policy

The study also emphasizes the participatory nature of culture-based public policy. One of the most significant findings is that local wisdom often entails decision-making processes that are more inclusive and participatory than formal governance structures. The results show that when communities are involved in policy design and implementation, policies are more likely to reflect the needs and aspirations of those communities. Local wisdom, which is built on the principles of collective decision-making, deliberation, and consensus, fosters an environment in which diverse perspectives are valued and incorporated into policy processes.

This participatory approach contrasts with traditional governance models that often prioritize expert-driven decision-making and top-down implementation. The findings suggest that culture-based policies allow for greater community input, ensuring that policies are not only culturally appropriate but also more responsive to local needs. This leads to greater public ownership of policies, increasing the likelihood of successful implementation and long-term sustainability.

Additionally, the study found that participatory governance based on local wisdom can enhance social capital by strengthening networks of trust and cooperation. As communities work together to design and implement policies, they build stronger relationships and a greater sense of collective responsibility. This is particularly important in multicultural societies where social fragmentation and mistrust can undermine governance efforts.



The research also indicates that participatory governance fosters accountability. When communities are involved in policymaking, they are more likely to hold both themselves and their leaders accountable for the outcomes of policy decisions. This creates a more transparent and responsive governance system, where citizens are active participants rather than passive recipients of policy.

6. The Transformative Potential of Culture-Based Policy

The final discussion point emphasizes the transformative potential of culture-based public policy. The research argues that integrating local wisdom into public policymaking is not only a corrective measure for existing governance problems but also a transformative step toward more inclusive, adaptive, and socially grounded governance systems. The findings show that culture-based policy represents a paradigm shift that challenges conventional governance models and redefines the relationship between the state and its citizens.

By recognizing the value of local wisdom, governments can move beyond the one-size-fits-all approach that often characterizes traditional policy design. Instead, culture-based public policy offers a more flexible, context-sensitive approach that can better address the unique challenges faced by diverse communities. The study highlights that such a shift is necessary in a globalized world where societies are increasingly diverse and interconnected.

Furthermore, the research suggests that culture-based policy can empower marginalized communities by giving them a voice in the policymaking process. This empowerment is crucial for achieving greater equity and social justice, as it ensures that the needs and concerns of all groups are considered in policy decisions. By integrating local wisdom, governments can create policies that are not only effective but also socially just and inclusive.

Ultimately, the discussion underscores the transformative potential of culture-based public policy in creating a more resilient, adaptive, and socially cohesive governance system. By integrating cultural values into the core of policy design, governments can strengthen their legitimacy, enhance citizen participation, and create policies that are sustainable and responsive to the changing needs of society.



CONCLUSIONS

This study demonstrates that culture-based public policy, which integrates local wisdom into contemporary governance, offers a transformative approach to addressing modern governance challenges. The findings emphasize that policies grounded in cultural values enhance legitimacy, foster greater public participation, and improve policy sustainability. By bridging the gap between traditional cultural practices and modern governance frameworks, culture-based policies ensure that governance is more inclusive, adaptive, and socially grounded. The research highlights that local wisdom, when incorporated into policy design, strengthens social cohesion, increases community trust, and promotes long-term policy effectiveness. Ultimately, the study argues that culture-based public policy is not just a corrective measure but a strategic governance paradigm that enhances both the legitimacy and effectiveness of public policies in culturally diverse societies.

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