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Updating Population Data And Strengthening Village Governance Through Student Work Practice In Kletek Village

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Abstract

Purpose: This community engagement aims to update population data and strengthen village governance administration in Kletek Village through Student Work Practice (PKM), addressing the inaccuracy of manually managed demographic records.

Method: The program employed a participatory descriptive qualitative approach through total enumeration of 727 households across eight hamlets, implemented in four stages: preparation and licensing, problem identification, data collection with cross-verification, and joint evaluation.

Practical Applications: The updated database provides an evidence-based foundation for village development planning, proportional budget allocation, and improved public services. The collaborative model also demonstrates a replicable framework for student–village government partnerships in rural governance.

Conclusion: The PKM successfully produced comprehensive population data covering 2,459 residents and strengthened administrative capacity. Sustainable outcomes require periodic data updates, maintenance budget allocation for physical infrastructure, and capacity building for village apparatus in independent data management.

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Introduction

Population data constitutes a vital element in governance at both central and local levels, including village administration. The availability of accurate, complete, and up-to-date population data serves as the foundation for policy formulation, development planning, budget allocation, and public service delivery. Therefore, population data collection must be carried out sustainably so that every demographic change can be properly recorded (Sugiyono, 2022).

As the level of government closest to the community, village governments are responsible for managing population administration, including the registration of births, deaths, population movements, incoming residents, changes in marital status, and updates to residents' identity data. The accuracy and completeness of these records determine the quality of administrative services provided to the community and form the basis for village development programs (Peraturan Menteri Dalam Negeri Nomor 47 Tahun 2016).

Based on preliminary information obtained by the implementation team from the Kletek Village Government, population data stored at the village office had not been comprehensively updated for some time and was still partially managed manually, resulting in discrepancies between administrative records and actual field conditions. This situation poses risks of mis-targeted social assistance programs and difficulties in compiling village development planning documents, thus becoming the primary urgency underlying the implementation of re-data collection activities in Kletek Village.

Kletek Village, Malaka Tengah District, Malaka Regency, as a village experiencing continuous growth in population size and mobility, requires a well-organized and accurate data collection system. If data is not updated periodically, it may lead to mis-targeted social assistance programs, difficulties in compiling village development planning documents, and suboptimal administrative services to the community. The expected social change from this activity is increased awareness among village officials and residents regarding the importance of accurate data as a basis for participatory and accountable village governance (Ali & Saputra, 2020).

During the Student Work Practice (PKM), students from the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Timor, had the opportunity to directly engage in population data collection activities in Kletek Village. This activity provided students with experience in understanding population administration processes, data collection and processing mechanisms, and the importance of coordination between the village government and the community in realizing valid and trustworthy population data (Direktorat Jenderal Pendidikan Tinggi, 2020).

Based on this description, this article is compiled to document and analyze the implementation of PKM activities focused on population data collection in Kletek Village, while identifying the challenges and impacts for the village government and local community. This PKM activity aims to provide students with real experience in applying village administration knowledge, directly observing the village governance process, and assisting the Kletek Village Government in obtaining accurate, complete, and up-to-date population data as a foundation for development planning.

Method

This PKM activity employed a descriptive qualitative approach with a participatory method, enabling students to obtain a comprehensive overview of the demographic conditions and economic potential of the village. All activities were carried out in collaboration with the Kletek Village Government, hamlet heads, and the local community. The implementation followed four stages:

1. Preparation and Licensing Stage. The preparation stage began with administrative licensing and initial coordination with the Kletek Village Government. The implementation team first prepared and submitted a Student Work Practice (PKM) permit letter from the campus to the Head of Kletek Village. This step aimed to ensure

that the entire series of activities had clear legality and received official approval from the local village authority. After the official permit was issued, the implementation team held a coordination meeting with the Village Head and the Kletek Village apparatus. In this meeting, the team presented the intentions, objectives, and work program design to be implemented during the PKM period. This discussion was conducted to align perceptions, determine the implementation schedule in the field, and identify technical needs and data support from the village. Through this coordination, the Kletek Village Government welcomed the team's presence and expressed its readiness to support the smooth implementation of all PKM activity stages.

2. Problem Identification Stage. Based on initial interviews with village officials, the main challenge faced by Kletek Village was the low level of community understanding and skills in managing and utilizing local potential optimally. Due to limited knowledge of innovation and sustainable governance, existing resources have not been able to provide added value to improve residents' economic welfare. Community participation in development activities remains limited, and there is no accurate village potential data as a basis for development planning. These problems then became the main focus in preparing materials and implementing assistance activities. Based on the problem identification, five main work programs were formulated as presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Details of PKM Team Work Programs in Kletek Village

No.	Activity Name	Activity Objective	Activity Form
1	Updating Kletek Village Profile	Presenting accurate, up-to-date, and integrated basic data of Kletek Village	Data collection (full census per hamlet), cross-verification, data analysis, and reporting
2	Social service	Improving environmental cleanliness, especially in the border area of Kletek Village, while strengthening family ties between students and local residents	Concrete action of village environmental cleaning and education to the community on the importance of maintaining environmental cleanliness
3	Construction of village gate, hamlet boards, and village boards	Clarifying identity and territorial boundaries, facilitating navigation and public services	Procurement and preparation of materials, processing and installation in the field
4	Data collection of farmer group assistance recipients	Collection and verification of farmer group data as a basis for compiling more targeted assistance recipient data	Field data collection and determination of prospective assistance recipients
5	Visit to Kletek Village Red and White Cooperative	Understanding village cooperative governance	Interview and focused discussion

Source: Author’s Work, 2026.

3. Data Collection and Verification Stage. Population data collection was conducted through a full census technique (total enumeration), which is data collection of all Household Heads in 8 hamlets (Rainain, Rainain'A, Rainain'B, Maneklaran, Beidu, Suai'A, Suai'B, and Wefatuk), not through sampling techniques. To overcome the limited implementation time (July 23 – August 6, 2026), student teams were divided into small groups, each responsible for one hamlet, accompanied by the Hamlet Head and local community figures/RT who served as field informants to ensure data accuracy. Data collection techniques included direct observation, structured interviews with household heads or household representatives, and cross-checking of field data

collection results with administrative documents available at the village office. Data that did not match or differed from village administrative records were reconfirmed to the Hamlet Head before being established as final data.

4. Evaluation Stage. At the end of the activity implementation, the implementation team together with the Kletek Village Government conducted a joint evaluation to ensure that all collected data had been submitted and could be utilized as material for updating the village profile. This evaluation also served as a forum to convey recommendations for the sustainability of data updating to village officials.

Result

Students successfully obtained and compiled the latest data regarding geographical conditions, territorial boundaries, residential area, rice fields, plantations, and population per hamlet in Kletek Village. The data collection results showed a total of 727 Household Heads with a population of 2,459 people, spread across eight hamlets, namely Rainain, Rainain'A, Rainain'B, Maneklaran, Beidu, Suai'A, Suai'B, and Wefatuk. This data was submitted to village officials as material for updating the village profile and the basis for future development planning.

Table 2. Population Data of Kletek Village per Hamlet, 2026

Hamlet	Number of HH	Male	Female	Total Population
Rainain	71	140	124	264
Rainain'A	70	146	157	303
Rainain'B	75	179	154	333
Maneklaran	61	131	106	237
Beidu	75	168	147	315
Suai'A	61	94	123	217
Suai'B	235	247	251	498
Wefatuk	79	137	155	292
Total	727	1,242	1,217	2,459

Source: Author's Work, 2026.

During the data collection process, the student team also observed participatory dynamics at the hamlet level: Hamlet Heads and several residents voluntarily helped verify the data of their respective households, including correcting inaccurate data in old administrative records. This process indirectly increased the awareness of hamlet officials regarding the importance of independent population data updating in the future.

The PKM implementation team together with the Kletek Village Government apparatus and the community of Kletek Village held a "Clean Friday" community service activity. This activity was carried out through mutual cooperation with a main focus on cleaning, organizing, and improving the environment, especially around the border area of Kletek Village which is the face and main access route of the region. Through the synergy established in the field, all parties worked together to clean up trash, tidy up bushes, and maintain public facilities to create a cleaner, more beautiful, and healthier environmental condition. Besides bringing positive impacts on the cleanliness and tidiness of the village, this activity also became an important moment to break the ice, build warm communication, and strengthen the ties of kinship between students and all residents of Kletek Village.

As a form of concrete physical contribution in the field, the PKM implementation team designed and realized the construction of territorial markers in the form of hamlet name boards, village name boards, and village gates. The installation of village and hamlet name boards was carried out at strategic points of territorial boundaries, followed by the erection of a sturdy village gate right in front of the Kletek Village Office. The construction of this physical

infrastructure was carried out through mutual cooperation with local residents, from the stage of material preparation, painting, to the process of planting at the target location. The presence of this marker infrastructure provides a significant positive impact on the governance and aesthetics of the Kletek Village environment, while strengthening the territorial identity administratively.

Students assisted the process of collecting and verifying farmer group data, including direct visits to Wefatuk Hamlet to help plant vegetable seeds on July 29, 2026. This activity provided an initial overview of the agricultural potential of residents that can be used as a basis for compiling more targeted assistance recipient data.

Table 3. Agricultural Potential of Kletek Village, 2026

Potential	Area/Result
Wet land	70 hectares
Dry land	35 hectares
Idle land	20 hectares
Rice fields	70 hectares / 140 tons yield

Source: Author's Work, 2026.

The PKM implementation team conducted a direct visit to the location of the Red and White Village Cooperative (KDMP) building construction, accompanied directly by the Cooperative Chairman. This field visit aimed to monitor closely the physical development progress of this village economic support infrastructure while digging for in-depth information regarding the governance and future development direction of the institution. In the field review and discussion session, students obtained a comprehensive overview of the ongoing construction progress, along with mapping of potential, business opportunities, and operational challenges faced by the administrators.

The PKM activity provided positive impacts in several aspects. In the aspect of village administration, data collection and updating of the village profile helped the Kletek Village Government obtain more complete data as material for development planning and service improvement. In the economic aspect, data collection of farmer groups and visits to the Red and White Cooperative provided an overview of the potential for community economic development. In the environmental and social aspects, social service increased environmental cleanliness while strengthening social relations and the spirit of mutual cooperation. In the aspect of facilities and village identity, the construction of gates and village and hamlet name boards provided physical contributions that help both the community and visitors recognize the village area.

Discussion

The collected population data shows a relatively balanced population structure in Kletek Village between males (1,242 people) and females (1,217 people), with uneven distribution between hamlets—Suai'B Hamlet recorded a much larger number of HH and population (235 HH, 498 people) compared to other hamlets which averaged around 60-80 HH. The implication is that future development planning and village budget allocation need to consider the proportion of service needs that are greater in Suai'B Hamlet, rather than purely administrative equal distribution. This finding is in line with the view that accurate population data must be the basis for proportional resource allocation, not just an administrative requirement (Insyira & Purnamasari, 2024).

Regarding the sustainability of village identity facilities (gates and name boards) built during the PKM activity, clarity is needed regarding the party responsible for their maintenance post-activity. Without the allocation of maintenance budgets through the Village Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBDes) or the appointment of persons in charge at the hamlet level, there is a risk that these physical facilities will not be maintained in the long term. This

underscores the importance of continued assistance that does not stop at the physical construction stage, but also at the aspect of institutional sustainability (Fanzikri, 2022).

From the economic side, the visit to the Red and White Cooperative of Kletek Village whose building is still under construction shows that the potential of this village economic institution has not yet fully operated. A more directed follow-up assistance strategy is needed, for example strengthening the governance of cooperative financial administration and training for administrators, so that the cooperative can function optimally as a motor of local economic movement once its physical construction is completed (Deden, Heryanto, & Hernawan, 2024).

Methodologically, the full census approach involving Hamlet Heads as field informants proved effective in overcoming the relatively short PKM implementation time limit. However, community involvement in this activity is still complementary (assisting data verification), not fully reflecting an empowerment process that builds the independence of village officials in managing data sustainably after the PKM activity ends. This gap is consistent with findings in various other thematic Community Service Lectures (KKN), where students tend to be the main implementers of activities, not facilitators of capacity building for the community/village officials (Sianturi et al., 2024; Mundzir et al., 2022). Therefore, in order for the database that has been built to be updated independently by village officials, follow-up is needed in the form of simple population data management training for village officials and Hamlet Heads, as practiced in similar programs in other regions (Herman et al., 2021; Syafie, Mattangkilang, & Aulia, 2024).

The implementation of Student Work Practice (PKM) in Kletek Village provided meaningful experience for all team members. Students not only gained experience in applying the knowledge acquired during lectures, but also learned to understand the real conditions in governance and community life in the village. Coordination with the Village Head, Village Secretary, hamlet heads, farmer groups, and the community helped students understand the needs and conditions in Kletek Village. The division of tasks per hamlet helped each member understand their respective responsibilities, while also training team coordination in conditions of limited time. This experience confirms that the success of PKM implementation is not only determined by the abilities of students, but also by the support and cooperation of the Kletek Village Government and the entire community.

Conclusion

The implementation of Student Work Practice in Kletek Village, Malaka Tengah District, Malaka Regency, successfully produced an update of population data showing that Kletek Village has 727 Household Heads with 2,459 residents spread across eight hamlets, through a full census technique involving Hamlet Heads as field informants. In addition to population data collection, this activity also produced data collection of farmer groups, construction of village identity facilities, implementation of social service, and exploration of information regarding the Red and White Cooperative of Kletek Village. Theoretically, these findings confirm that the success of census-based data collection in a limited time is highly dependent on the involvement of local actors (Hamlet Heads/RT) as a bridge between students and residents, but this involvement still needs to be directed further towards strengthening the independent capacity of village officials, not just assisting the one-time data collection process. It is recommended that the Kletek Village Government: (1) conduct periodic and sustainable population data updates, not only during the implementation of PKM activities; (2) allocate maintenance budgets for the village identity facilities that have been built; and (3) involve Hamlet Heads and village operators in simple population data management training, so that data updates can be carried out independently by village officials without depending on the next PKM activity.

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