

# Developing Local Champions and Policy Recommendation: Adaptive Capacities in Community-Based Child Safeguarding Initiatives

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## Abstract

This study explored the concept of adaptive capacity, which is believed to correlate with policy recommendations. Adaptive capacity is usually only applied to programs related to ecological and environmental changes. This research focuses on the Community-Based Integrated Child Protection Program (PATBM) because it is deemed relevant based on this phenomenon. In addition, it is closely linked to the context of communities with high social complexity, where cadres are key actors in child protection facing structural, cultural, and resource challenges. This study used a qualitative descriptive approach with a case study design and adopted the framework proposed by Freduah et al. (2019), which assesses adaptive capacity based on six capital dimensions: natural, cultural, human, social, political, and financial. The findings show that social and cultural capital play a dominant role through the strengthening of local networks and social norms such as the "Sirri" culture. However, limitations in human and financial capital restrict the effectiveness of interventions and resilience of programs. Political and natural capital contribute indirectly through policy support and geographical accessibility. This study highlights the importance of holistic and multi-sectoral adaptive capacity development strategies, including cadre training, village budget allocation, and inclusive community involvement. The findings of this study contribute significantly to the development of more responsive, sustainable, and contextual community-based child protection policies in rural areas.

**Keywords:** Adaptive Capacity, Policy Recommendation, Community-Based Child Protection

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## 1. BACKGROUND

Child protection is a priority in both global and national development, in line with the increasing risks of exploitation, violence, and neglect faced by children worldwide. According to UNICEF, more than one billion children globally experience violence each year in various forms including physical, psychological, and sexual violence (UNICEF, 2020). In Indonesia, the critical need for child protection has become increasingly apparent. According to data from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (KemenPPPA), over 15,000 cases of violence against children are reported in 2022, with most victims being school-aged girls (KemenPPPA, 2023). Efforts to transform child protection policies have gradually been implemented, incorporating protective measures into social welfare, education, and law enforcement systems, all grounded in children's rights (UNICEF 2023). A key strategy of the Indonesian government is to promote a community-based approach to child protection, ensuring a more adaptable and locally focused response. The significance of child protection extends beyond social justice, thus impacting the long-term development of human resources. Children raised in unsafe environments often encounter challenges in cognitive and psychosocial development and may experience mental health issues in adulthood (WHO, 2021). Thus, a community-based approach that positions the community as the primary actor in child protection is particularly relevant in Indonesia's diverse and geographically widespread society. To maximize the effectiveness of policy recommendations, it is crucial to base them on empirical research.

As Mukherjee and Bali (2019) noted, the effectiveness of policy aligns with the core principle of modern policy sciences: problem solving. The main goal of public policy is to tackle societal issues and enhance policy outcomes through a thoughtful process (Peters et al., 2018). Therefore, programs that focus on training cadres to lead advocacy and intervention at the local level, such as Community-Based Integrated Child Protection (PATBM), need systematic attention and support. Child protection cadres serve as liaisons between the state and society, aiding in the prevention of and response to violence cases while boosting the community's ability to manage child protection risks locally.

This article explores Temmappadaue Village in Maros Regency, Indonesia, a region characterized by notable social vulnerability, especially in terms of child protection. In this setting, the Integrated

Community-based Child Protection Program (PATBM) is envisioned as a Community-Based Child Protection strategy aimed at boosting community involvement in preventing and addressing child violence. However, the program's execution faces several hurdles such as insufficient knowledge, skills, and support for cadres. As a result, the program's success in reducing instances of violence and child exploitation at the local level was less than optimal. The village's inherent social and cultural factors further complicate the implementation of community-based child-protection initiatives. According to Yunus et al. (2024), the challenges in delivering public services are becoming a more strategic policy issue as advancements in public services tend to plateau. They argued that this impacts all public domains, including economic, social, cultural, and other areas.

Strong traditional norms, stigma toward violence victims, and limited access to information are significant barriers for cadres. They often face community rejection, as violence against children is viewed as a taboo and sensitive topic that cannot be discussed openly. Under these circumstances, the adaptive capacity of cadres is crucial for a program's success. Here, adaptive capacity refers to the ability of individuals or groups to adapt to social and technical changes in the field and respond effectively to challenges. Without adequate adaptive capacity, cadres find it difficult to tackle the complexities of issues that arise in community-based child protection. Therefore, enhancing adaptive capacity is vital for developing a responsive and sustainable child protection system at village level. Conceptually, adaptive capacity has been extensively discussed in various fields such as environmental management, education, disaster management, and organizational development. However, research on adaptive capacity in the context of developing community-based child protection cadres, particularly in rural areas, remains limited. Thus, studies examining the dynamics of adaptive capacity in community-based child protection at the village level are essential for addressing policy and practical needs in the field.

In the context of the implementation of the Integrated Community-Based Child Protection Program (PATBM), adaptive capacity is an important element that has not yet been studied in depth. This study adopts the framework of Freduah et al. (2019), which views adaptive capacity as the result of the integration of various types of capital: social, cultural, human, political, financial, and infrastructural. The interplay between these forms of capital is seen as a means of mitigating risks, addressing pressures, and maximizing opportunities that emerge from socioeconomic and environmental shifts. This framework highlights the fact that adaptive capacity is developed within a complex social-ecological system, where each exposure unit possesses unique traits and reactions to external stressors. The success of the Community-Based Child Safeguarding program is thought to be significantly affected by the adaptive capacity of its cadres. Those who can adjust to changes and challenges in the field tend to perform more effectively as they can swiftly identify issues and devise targeted solutions. By contrast, cadres with limited adaptive capacities often employ inflexible work methods, are less responsive to change, and are slow to make strategic decisions.

The case studies conducted in the research locations aim to demonstrate the dynamics of the adaptive capacity of community-based child-safeguarding cadres in a rural setting, which is characterized by resource constraints, lack of support, and social and cultural complexities. This study also investigated various strategies employed by cadres to enhance their adaptive capacity and assess their impact on the effectiveness of child protection program implementation. Consequently, this research holds dual importance: it not only contributes to the success of Community-Based Child Safeguarding, but also serves as a potential model for other villages with similar characteristics. It is anticipated that enhancing the adaptive capacity of cadres will make them more effective agents of change in community-based child-protection efforts. The theoretical and practical contributions of this study are expected to enrich the literature on strengthening adaptive capacity in Indonesian community-based programmes.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Adaptive capacity within systems and organizations relies heavily on several critical factors such as inputs, outputs, control mechanisms, institutional prerequisites, resources, and timeframes. Kayode (2023) highlights that effectively addressing these factors is crucial for ensuring functional efficiency and enabling systems to adjust to contextual shifts and external disruptions. As a systemic entity, adaptive capacity is intrinsically linked to organizational flexibility and its capability to react to rapidly changing and competitive market conditions.

Mary and Gary (2014) further note that understanding the relationship between attachment theory and hierarchy influences organizational resilience when facing environmental challenges. In the realm of

complex teamwork, adaptive capacity significantly affects planning and decision-making processes. Mendel et al. (2015) assert that additional adaptation and mitigation strategies are essential to overcome unforeseen obstacles and prevent stagnation or deadlock within organizations. In the education sector, adaptive capacity serves as an integrative approach for incorporating disaster risk reduction (DRR) into sustainable education.

According to Robert et al. (2020), this integration aids in developing pedagogical designs and student competencies that align with quality education objectives within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework. However, in the context of disaster response and community recovery, an adaptive capacity is vital. Rebecca (2014) demonstrates that pre-event planning, active community participation, and the implementation of a national framework are key predictors of enhanced emergency response outcomes. Full-scale exercises are also recognized as an effective means of boosting community preparedness. From a social and environmental perspective, adaptive capacity is perceived as a dynamic institutional process. Ralph and Robin (2010) emphasize that cultural structures within organizations can either facilitate or impede the effectiveness of adaptive responses. Their research underscores the significance of interaction patterns and collective decision-making processes as indicators of adaptive capacity.

In this study, we employed the concept introduced by Freduah et al. (2019) because of its perceived relevance. Adaptive capacity was assessed using six indicators: Natural Capital, Cultural Capital, Human Capital, Social Capital, Political Capital, and Financial Capital. Natural capital pertains to wealth or assets derived directly from the environment, encompassing any natural resource that humans can utilize (Voora & Venema, 2008). Cultural capital represents how individuals perceive the world and conduct their daily lives, and is influenced by their values, beliefs, traditions, and attitudes related to cultural heritage and collective perceptions (Bennett & Silva, 2011). Human capital involves the knowledge, skills, and abilities of individuals that enable them to realize their potential and optimize the use of available resources. This capital includes factors such as education, health, leadership, and diversity of societal groups (Becker, 2009).

Social capital consists of a network of relationships and interactions among individuals and groups that fosters cooperation, trust, and solidarity. It embodies shared values, norms of reciprocity, and openness to diverse perspectives within the community (Narayan-Parker 1999). Political capital refers to individuals' capacity to influence policies and access power institutions. It encompasses the right to participate in decision making and the ability of formal and informal organizations to manage resources for social development (Flora et al., 2004). Finally, financial capital is the availability of funds or financial resources that can support various activities, including those sourced from the government, non-governmental organizations, grants, and internal organizational funding.

### 3. METHODS

This study uses a qualitative methodology with a descriptive framework to investigate the concept of Community-Based Child Safeguarding. Participants were selected through purposive sampling, a method that involves selecting individuals deemed to have the most comprehensive understanding of the subject under investigation (Cresswell 2022). The study utilized a case study design, which involves an in-depth, detailed, and intensive examination of a research subject, such as a program, event, or activity related to Community-Based Child Safeguarding. This approach aims to achieve a more profound comprehension of the specifics of the phenomenon being examined, which is commonly referred to as a case (Creswell, 2022). Various collected data are analyzed, and verbal or written information is categorized to streamline the process of distinguishing relevant from irrelevant data. The data are then presented in textual form, and conclusions are drawn. According to Miles, Huberman, and Sandana (2014), the data analysis model in this study is conducted interactively and continues throughout each phase of the research until it is completed. The following are the components of the data analysis:

#### **Data Collection**

Data collection is the initial stage of the research process, and aims to obtain data relevant to the focus of the study. The data collected can be sourced from primary data through interviews, observations, or direct surveys, or from secondary data, such as official documents, institutional reports, and supporting literature. This process provides a strong empirical basis for further analysis.

### Data Condensation

Data condensation is a systematic process that includes the selection, simplification, abstraction, and transformation of raw data into structured information. This process involves filtering information from field notes, interview transcripts, documents, and other empirical materials. At this stage, researchers focus on the interview data so that the information collected is more appropriate and relevant to the research analysis.

### Data Presentation

Data presentation refers to the process of organizing and arranging data in a systematic and easy-to-analyze format, such as in the form of matrices, tables, graphs, or descriptive narratives. This stage aims to provide a clear picture of the patterns that emerge from the data, making it easier for researchers to understand the context and dynamics of the situation being studied as well as facilitating the process of drawing conclusions and making data-based decisions.

### Drawing conclusions

Drawing conclusions from qualitative research is the final stage, which involves interpretation and verification. This stage includes reviewing the data from the interviews and documentation to ensure the accuracy, consistency, and validity of the collected information. This process also includes organizing the data into categories or themes to gain a deeper understanding, as well as verifying the results of the analysis to ensure the robustness and credibility of the final conclusions.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research results that have been collected are presented in the form of a data reduction table below.

Table 1 Data Reduction for Research

Modal	Official Implementors	Civic Organization	Local Government Apparatus	Citizen	Children's Forum
<b>Natural Capital</b>	Chairperson: Easy access, not significant to program services Member: Comfortable environment, but minimal infrastructure	A small room, integrated with the village office	There is a special program room, with minimal facilities consisting only of a vehicle owned by the village administrator.	Easy to reach, no consultation room required	Easy to reach, integrated space, so children feel comfortable
<b>Cultural Capital</b>	Chairperson: Socialization through religious gatherings (Islamic religious ceremonies), social sanctions are effectively enforced Members: Religious traditions support child protection	Urban culture is considered a threat; community-based child safeguarding programs are urgently needed.	There is a strong cultural tradition called Sirri*, in which religious leaders assist in socialization.	Social sanctions, imam gives advice Religious leaders and barzanji help educate children	Sirri culture*, exclusion of perpetrators of child abuse
<b>Human Capital</b>	Chairperson: 5 cadres, 1 certified, UNICEF & empowerment agency training Members: Lack of cadres, basic skills	Uncertainty about cadre capacity	Insufficient number and capacity of cadres; assist RT/RW networks	Only the Program Chair and two officers who were considered unprofessional were aware of this.	The number of cadres is considered insufficient, with only the Program Chair being known.

<b>Social Capital</b>	Chairperson: Cadres spread across neighborhoods (RT/RW), cooperation with community leaders Members: Cooperation with religious leaders, community members, civic organizations	Involved the community and conducted monthly monitoring	Involving all elements of society	Involving community and religious leaders in cooperation	Involvement of community members & Children's Forum
<b>Political Capital</b>	Chair: Support from the Village Head (policy, budget, space for Community-Based Child Safeguarding Program) Members: The Village Head strongly supports the Program	The village head always informs residents about programs.	Socialization from the Village Head, there are supporting regulations	Supported by the Village Head, the Village Head conducts socialization at every community meeting.	Informants were not very knowledgeable or aware of conditions related to political capital issues.
<b>Financial Capital</b>	Chairperson: There is no specific budget; funding still comes from civic organizations and UNICEF assistance. Members: There is no specific budget; funding still comes from civic organizations.	Informants were not very knowledgeable or aware of conditions related to financial capital issues	No specific budget, budgetary support from civic organizations & UNICEF assistance	Informants were not very knowledgeable or aware of conditions related to financial capital issues	Informants were not very knowledgeable or aware of conditions related to financial capital issues

Source: Research results compiled by the researcher (2025)

\*The culture of "Sirri" or shame is used as a means of social control in the form of ostracism against perpetrators or families who marry off children under the legal age, as well as not attending family events that violate norms, reflecting the existence of a culture-based control system that is able to reduce the incidence of early marriage and violence against children.

#### 4.1. Natural Capital

In the Community-Based Child Safeguarding Program in Temmapaduae Village, natural capital does not play a major role in shaping the program's content, but it does affect it through factors such as accessibility and physical environment. All informants highlighted that the village's convenient location aids in the mobilization of services. However, the lack of facilities, such as dedicated consultation rooms for children, presents challenges, especially concerning privacy and psychological comfort. Some services are still provided in the village head's office, which makes children hesitant to seek help.

This situation underscores the need for investment in service infrastructure to enhance the overall adaptive capacity. Supporting these findings, Wessells (2015) asserted that having adequate and accessible facilities is crucial for strengthening community-based child protection systems as it enhances children's sense of security and encourages their participation in social services. A child-friendly physical environment not only serves a technical purpose, but also symbolizes trust and psychological comfort. Additionally, Ungar (2011) discovered that physical capital such as community spaces and transportation access is vital for community resilience against social vulnerability. Furthermore, McDonnell et al. (2015) in their study on the Strong Communities for Children initiative found that incorporating physical elements, like inclusive counseling facilities and closer service access, significantly boosted the effectiveness of child protection programs and reduced violence rates.

#### 4.2. Cultural Capital

Cultural capital plays a crucial role in the success of community-based child safeguarding programmes. Responses from informants revealed that local cultural norms, like the "Sirri" culture, are internalized, promoting a sense of shame as a form of social control to prevent child protection violations. Religious leaders and activities such as Barzanji and regular sermons serve as effective educational tools. Social

sanctions, including ostracizing those who commit violence or engaging in early marriage, further reinforce community standards.

Despite their effectiveness, some informants warned about the potential adverse effects of social sanctions on their children, highlighting the importance of balancing cultural methods with psychosocial protection strategies. Baghdadi et al. (2024) indicated that cultural norms and the interplay between religion and the state significantly influence child protection systems in the Maghreb region. The integration of local cultural values and the involvement of religious figures have been shown to bolster social protection networks, although challenges such as stigma and the social exclusion of violence victims persist (Baghdadi et al., 2024; Children and Youth Services Review).

Meanwhile, Logie et al. (2023) in their study of Ugandan refugee settlements stress that while community-based strategies can enhance awareness of harmful social norms, caution is needed to avoid reinforcing stigma, particularly when exclusive religious norms are involved (Logie, C.H. et al., 2023, SSM - Mental Health). In a different context, Embleton et al. (2023) examined discrimination against street children in Kenya and discovered that cultural beliefs that belittle marginalized groups can worsen social inequality.

#### 4.3. Human Capital

Human resources present a significant challenge to the sustainability of community-based child safeguarding programmes. The program is constrained by a limited number of cadres whose skills remain at a basic level, primarily focused on case accompaniment. Notably, the head of the programme is the sole certified cadre, and training initiatives from UNICEF and the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Agency have not been uniformly disseminated among all cadres. Informants indicated that the community predominantly recognizes only the head of the program as a service figure. This limitation results in unprofessional service delivery and delayed responses. Consequently, enhancing cadre capacity through comprehensive training and increasing personnel is an urgent requirement for bolstering adaptive capacity.

The human resource constraints identified in the Community-Based Child Safeguarding Program in Temmappadaue Village, particularly the limited cadre numbers and the lack of comprehensive training, are common challenges. This is corroborated by Gilmore and McAuliffe (2013) in their systematic review, which demonstrated that the success of community-based public health interventions is heavily reliant on the quality of cadre training. They assert that well-trained cadres can deliver more effective interventions, especially in the context of maternal and child health in low-income and middle-income countries. Additionally, the findings of LeFevre et al. (2015), who examined the profile and capacity of cadres in Tanzania, revealed that low basic skills and uneven training directly affect the quality of the services provided and create disparities in service coverage. Scott et al. (2018), through a systematic review of various community health worker programs, concluded that the effectiveness of community-based programs is significantly influenced by structured training design, sustained policy support, and adequate supervision systems.

These studies collectively emphasize that strengthening cadre capacity is not merely a technical training issue, but also necessitates a systemic approach involving organizational development and long-term institutional support. Therefore, adaptive capacity-building in the context of community-based child protection must focus on strengthening training structures, increasing personnel numbers, and integrating cross-sectoral support.

#### 4.4. Social Capital

Social capital plays a significant role in the structure of the Community-Based Child Safeguarding Program, as evidenced by the robust networks among village cadres, RT/RW (Rukun Tetangga/Rukun Warga: community organizations in Indonesia that assist the government and community at the lowest level, namely, in villages or sub-districts), religious leaders, civic organizations, and communities such as barzanji (a religious process in Islam). The findings suggest that these networks not only facilitate the delivery of services to the community but also enhance public trust in the programme. Close collaboration further supports socialization activities and conflict mediation for children. The involvement of the Children's Forum has also been instrumental in strengthening children's participation as subjects of protection. This indicates that social capital provides structural strength for expanding program reach, enhancing effectiveness, and fortifying community-based adaptive responses.

These findings align with Wessells (2015), who emphasized the bottom-up approach that integrates the power of social networks and collaboration with religious and community leaders as effective in building a child protection system that is responsive and contextually relevant. He demonstrated that the success of such programs is highly contingent on strong social relationships and the active involvement of children as subjects of protection. This is corroborated by Driscoll's (2020) study in Uganda, which revealed that community social workers played a crucial role in bolstering community resilience through the activation of local social capital. This approach accelerates case detection, supports conflict mediation, and establishes a response system based on citizen participation. Abdullah and Emery (2020) demonstrated in their systematic review that the presence of collective efficacy in environments with high levels of neighbor trust and involvement in social organizations significantly reduces rates of violence against children. They emphasize that social trust and community solidarity are not merely supportive elements but structural protective mechanisms in child protection. Overall, the results of these studies confirm that social capital, through networks of trust, local institutional synergies, and active community participation, constitutes a vital foundation for strengthening the adaptive capacity of community-based child protection programs.

#### 4.5. Political Capital

Political capital is instrumental in the support provided by village heads through policies, indirect budgeting and service facilities. Informants indicated that the success of the Community-Based Child Safeguarding Program is inextricably linked to the village head's commitment, as evidenced by their active promotion of the program in various community meetings and support for its technical implementation in the field. Several village regulations have been formulated to bolster the protection of children. However, the insufficient understanding of policy aspects among children suggests that the participation of target groups in decision-making processes remains suboptimal. This underscores the need for a more inclusive, child-friendly political approach. The critical role of political capital in the success of community-based child safeguarding programs has been recognized globally. For instance, Driscoll (2020) underscored the importance of collaboration between community development agencies and local government officials in selecting cadres and managing child protection programs in Uganda. Such collaboration forms the foundation of community resilience, particularly in complex and vulnerable environments.

Wessells (2015) highlighted the necessity of active local government involvement in strengthening child protection systems, as they are strategically positioned to integrate programs into existing village structures and social systems. Local policy support can also confer legitimacy and ensure the long-term sustainability of community-based programmes. In alignment with this, Muchabaiwa (2024) demonstrated in a study of child protection budget politics in Africa that political commitment significantly influences resource allocation. He found that a lack of attention from local leaders often results in funding gaps, leading to stagnation of community initiatives. Ringson and Matshabaphala (2022) emphasize the importance of child rights-based political inclusivity within community governance frameworks. Thus, political capital in child protection is not solely related to technical support from local leaders, but also pertains to the extent to which political processes incorporate children's voices as rights-holders with the right to participate in decisions that affect them.

#### 4.6. Financial Capital

Financial capital is a significant vulnerability within the community-based child-safeguarding framework. Notably, none of the informants reported the existence of a village budget specifically allocated to the community-based child-safeguarding program. Consequently, all activities continue to operate under the auspices of the PKK (civic organization) program or rely on support from UNICEF. This lack of independent financial allocation has resulted in pronounced dependence on external sources, thereby rendering the program susceptible to discontinuity. Furthermore, the majority of community members remained unaware of the funding sources, reflecting a deficiency in transparency and public engagement in financial matters. Advocating dedicated village budgets and diversifying funding sources is imperative to bolster long-term adaptive capacity.

Community-Based Child Safeguarding exhibits significant deficiencies in financial capital, primarily because of the absence of village budget allocation and substantial reliance on external assistance. Muchabaiwa (2024) identified that, in numerous African countries, child protection programs persistently face budgetary constraints due to low political prioritization and inadequate fiscal advocacy at the local level. This situation engenders long-term donor dependency, posing the risk of program

cessation upon the conclusion of funding. Additionally, Wessells (2015) underscores that community-based child protection programs can achieve sustainability with only stable structural support, including integrated budgeting within social systems and local governance. Correspondingly, Ellermeijer and Robinson (2023) indicate that the absence of specific financial allocations in village schemes or local institutions exacerbates service fragmentation and diminishes the quality of child protection. They stress the necessity of enhancing local fiscal capacity through evidence-based budget advocacy and community involvement in financial decision making. Therefore, as evidenced in Temmappadaue, strengthening financial capital requires not only increased budgets, but also improvements in transparent, participatory, and sustainable village budget management to optimally enhance the adaptive capacity of the child protection system.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Upon examining the six dimensions of capital within the adaptive capacity framework, it was determined that the implementation of the Community-Based Child Safeguarding Program exhibited intricate dynamics, highlighting both the strengths and structural challenges of enhancing the efficacy of community-based child protection. Social and cultural capital emerged as the predominant strengths, facilitating the program's success through collective participation and assimilation of local values. Nevertheless, reliance on traditional norms necessitates the mitigation of potential adverse effects on children's psychosocial wellbeing. Human and financial capital present significant limitations that impede prompt professional responses, underscoring the urgent requirement for comprehensive training and dedicated funding. Natural and political capital contribute indirectly yet substantially to the reinforcement of service structures, accessibility, and program legitimacy through village policy support. Overall, the adaptive capacity of cadres remains vulnerable owing to inadequate capital distribution, particularly concerning human and financial resources.

Consequently, enhancing adaptive capacity must focus on multi-sectoral, inclusive, and sustainable strategies, including institutional support, investment in training, and advocacy for village budgets that prioritize child protection. These findings are crucial as evidence-based policy references and recommendations for strengthening community-based child protection models in the rural areas of Indonesia.

### Research Limitations and Further Research

This study has several limitations. First, the research was confined to Temmappadaue Village, which may limit the generalizability of the findings and conclusions to other regions with distinct sociocultural and geographical characteristics. Second, the data primarily originated from interviews and observations, which are inherently subjective and potentially affect the depth of analysis, particularly in understanding the dynamics of adaptive capital in a broader context. Furthermore, limitations in quantifying aspects of adaptive capital, such as social and financial capital, constrain the ability of this study to comprehensively map the influence of each capital on the adaptive capacity of PATBM cadres.

Future research should broaden the scope of this study by including additional villages to facilitate a more holistic comparison of the adaptive capital dynamics across various local contexts. Additionally, employing a mixed-method approach could enhance the analysis, whereby in-depth qualitative data are complemented by more quantifiable data, particularly when evaluating social and financial capital. Future research should also investigate the role of digital technology in augmenting the adaptive capacity of cadres given the increasing demand for digital innovation in public services and child protection.

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