JURNAL ILMIAH MUQODDIMAH:
Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora
Vol. 10 No. 4 November 2026
E-ISSN : 2598-6236 (Media Online)
http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id/index.php/muqoddimah
DOI : https://doi.org/10.31604/jim.v10i4.2026

Submitted: 06/10/2026; Revised: 19/10/2026;
Accepted: 10/11/2026; Published: 10/11/2026

Youth Digital Mediation In Beta Mandiri Pentahelix Collaboration In Southwest Maluku

Julietty A Frans[1)], Aholiab Watloly[2)], Simona Litay[3)]

Pattimura University, Ambon, Indonesia

juletafrans@gmail.com

Abstract

Digitalization offers opportunities to extend market information, communication, and product visibility in geographically fragmented regions. This study examines how youth engage in digital practices and mediate pentahelix collaboration within the Beta Mandiri Program in Southwest Maluku Regency, Indonesia. A qualitative case-study approach was used, drawing on interviews, observations, and documents involving 20 purposively selected informants from government, youth groups, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), academia, business, media, and local communities. The findings identify three connected mechanisms: youth participation in program activities evolves into a bridging role across institutional actors; WhatsApp and social media support coordination, product documentation, and promotion; and locally embedded relationships facilitate digital engagement. The findings also show that online visibility does not necessarily translate into sales or sustained livelihoods. Uneven connectivity, digital skills, production continuity, inter-island logistics, kinship obligations, and dependence on program-based coordination constrain outcomes. The article develops the interpretive concept of Digitally Mediated Youth Pentahelix Agency and presents a contextual model that places youth at the intersection of local resources, institutional collaboration, and digital networks. The study contributes a relational perspective on pentahelix collaboration in archipelagic development, while its qualitative design does not establish causal economic impacts.

Kata kunci: Digitalization; Youth Agency; Pentahelix Collaboration; Beta Mandiri Program; Local Economic Development; Archipelagic Regions

Abstrak

Digitalisasi menawarkan peluang untuk memperluas informasi pasar, komunikasi, dan visibilitas produk di wilayah yang terfragmentasi secara geografis. Studi ini meneliti bagaimana kaum muda terlibat dalam praktik digital dan memediasi kolaborasi pentahelix dalam Program Beta Mandiri di Kabupaten Maluku Barat Daya, Indonesia. Pendekatan studi kasus kualitatif digunakan, berdasarkan wawancara, observasi, dan dokumen yang melibatkan 20 informan yang dipilih secara purposif dari pemerintah, kelompok pemuda, usaha mikro, kecil, dan menengah (UMKM), akademisi, bisnis, media, dan masyarakat setempat. Temuan mengidentifikasi tiga mekanisme yang saling terkait: partisipasi kaum muda dalam kegiatan program berkembang menjadi peran penghubung antar aktor institusional; WhatsApp dan media sosial mendukung koordinasi, dokumentasi produk, dan promosi; dan hubungan yang tertanam secara lokal memfasilitasi keterlibatan digital. Temuan juga menunjukkan bahwa visibilitas daring tidak selalu diterjemahkan menjadi penjualan atau mata pencaharian yang berkelanjutan. Konektivitas yang tidak merata, keterampilan digital, keberlanjutan produksi, logistik antar pulau, kewajiban kekerabatan, dan ketergantungan pada koordinasi berbasis program membatasi hasil. Artikel ini mengembangkan konsep interpretatif Agensi Pentahelix Pemuda yang Dimediasi Secara Digital dan menyajikan model kontekstual yang menempatkan pemuda pada persimpangan sumber daya lokal, kolaborasi kelembagaan, dan jaringan digital. Studi ini memberikan

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Published by *Fisipol – UMTS Press*.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

JURNAL ILMIAH MUQODDIMAH:
Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora
Vol. 10 No. 4 November 2026
E-ISSN : 2598-6236 (Media Online)
http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id/index.php/muqoddimah
DOI : https://doi.org/10.31604/jim.v10i4.2026

Submitted: 06/10/2026; Revised: 19/10/2026;
Accepted: 10/11/2026; Published: 10/11/2026

perspektif relasional tentang kolaborasi pentahelix dalam pembangunan kepulauan, sementara desain kualitatifnya tidak menetapkan dampak ekonomi kausal.

***Key words**: Digitalisasi; Peran Pemuda; Kolaborasi Pentahelix; Program Beta Mandiri; Pembangunan Ekonomi Lokal; Daerah Kepulauan*

INTRODUCTION

Digital technologies are reshaping how communities exchange information, organize economic activities, and connect producers with consumers. Their relevance to local development extends beyond online promotion: communication tools can facilitate coordination, knowledge exchange, entrepreneurship, and interaction among public, private, and community actors (Castells, 2010; OECD, 2020). Whether these possibilities result in improved livelihoods, however, depends on institutional conditions and the resources available to users.

These questions are particularly relevant to archipelagic regions, where travel between islands, uneven telecommunications infrastructure, transport costs, and fragmented markets shape everyday economic activity. Digital communication may reduce the cost of exchanging information but cannot remove the physical constraints involved in production and delivery. A distinction is therefore needed between greater online visibility and demonstrable economic outcomes (van Dijk, 2020).

Southwest Maluku Regency (Maluku Barat Daya, MBD), Indonesia, provides a setting in which these tensions can be examined. The region has economic activities involving agriculture, fisheries, livestock, food processing, handicrafts, and tourism. Local products and knowledge offer development opportunities, but connections among producers, institutions, and external markets remain central to converting these resources into economic value. This study examines those connections in the Beta Mandiri Program rather than assuming that the presence of local resources guarantees economic improvement.

Youth are among the actors who may facilitate such connections. Their involvement in digital communication and community activities can support information sharing and product promotion. Yet digital familiarity should not be attributed uniformly to all young people; participation also depends on access, skills, institutional opportunities, and local social relations (Annisa & Supriono, 2025; van Dijk, 2020). The analytical question is how participating youth exercise agency within a particular collaboration, rather than whether an age group is inherently technologically capable. This distinction follows Checkoway (2011), who characterizes meaningful youth participation through opportunities to influence decisions rather than through attendance alone.

This perspective requires a shift from viewing youth as objects or targets of development toward recognizing them as development actors. Such a shift becomes increasingly relevant within collaborative development approaches, particularly the pentahelix model.

Building on the broader multi-actor innovation tradition (Etzkowitz & Leydesdorff, 2000), the pentahelix framework applied here identifies five collaborating actor groups: government, academia, business, communities, and media. Government can provide policy and program support; academia contributes research and facilitation; business actors offer entrepreneurial experience and market relationships; communities hold local resources and

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Published by *Fisipol – UMTS Press*.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

JURNAL ILMIAH MUQODDIMAH:
Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora
Vol. 10 No. 4 November 2026
E-ISSN : 2598-6236 (Media Online)
http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id/index.php/muqoddimah
DOI : https://doi.org/10.31604/jim.v10i4.2026

Submitted: 06/10/2026; Revised: 19/10/2026;
Accepted: 10/11/2026; Published: 10/11/2026

contextual knowledge; and media actors provide channels for communication and promotion. This five-actor collaboration should be distinguished from the Quintuple Helix innovation model, which explicitly incorporates the natural environment as an additional sphere (Carayannis et al., 2012). The presence of actors alone does not demonstrate effective collaboration; the quality of their interaction also matters (Ansell & Gash, 2008; Sukarso & Dasuki, 2026). Network-governance research also shows that coordination and management arrangements matter for collaboration across organizational boundaries (Provan & Kenis, 2008).

However, effective collaboration does not occur automatically simply because these five elements are formally present. Meaningful collaboration requires actors capable of bridging and connecting these different institutional domains. In a geographically fragmented region such as Southwest Maluku Regency, this intermediary or bridging function becomes particularly important.

The Beta Mandiri Program is considered in this article as a setting for community economic empowerment based on local potential and stakeholder participation. The analysis concentrates on the reported experiences of program participants, especially how youth link program activities, community producers, digital communication, and collaborating institutions. The available qualitative material does not provide a basis for estimating changes in income, sales, or employment attributable to the program.

In practical terms, digital platforms can complement face-to-face collaboration. WhatsApp enables coordination and direct exchanges, while Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok can increase the circulation of information and product images. Digital channels can also help community producers contact prospective buyers. However, platform use is analytically distinct from completed transactions: product availability, delivery, quality, and customer trust still affect whether an online connection results in economic benefit. Digital entrepreneurship scholarship likewise distinguishes technology-enabled opportunities from the organizational work needed to create and capture value (Nambisan, 2017).

However, the availability of technology does not automatically generate equal economic benefits. Digital inequalities continue to be shaped by internet connectivity, device ownership, digital skills, education, economic resources, geographical location, and institutional support. Therefore, digitalization needs to be understood as a social process, rather than merely a technological phenomenon. Differences in internet use can remain substantial even when individuals have some form of access (van Deursen & van Dijk, 2014); research in rural settings similarly documents the combined importance of connectivity and meaningful inclusion (Salemink et al., 2017).

Research on local digital economies has explored online entrepreneurship and market access, while studies of youth empowerment have emphasized skills, innovation, and participation (Annisa & Supriono, 2025; Pratama et al., 2025). Work on pentahelix partnerships has examined the coordination of government, academia, businesses, communities, and media, including the challenges of sustaining effective collaboration (Sa'adah & Siswanto, 2025; Sukarso & Dasuki, 2026). These strands provide a foundation for examining how particular actors connect institutional roles to everyday local economic practices.

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Published by *Fisipol – UMTS Press*.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

JURNAL ILMIAH MUQODDIMAH:
Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora
Vol. 10 No. 4 November 2026
E-ISSN : 2598-6236 (Media Online)
http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id/index.php/muqoddimah
DOI : https://doi.org/10.31604/jim.v10i4.2026

Submitted: 06/10/2026; Revised: 19/10/2026;
Accepted: 10/11/2026; Published: 10/11/2026

The present study focuses on a more specific question: how participating youth use digital communication to mediate relationships across pentahelix actors in an archipelagic community. Youth are analyzed as potential bridging actors, not as an additional sixth helix. The argument draws on collaborative governance (Ansell & Gash, 2008), networked communication (Castells, 2010), and the social embeddedness of economic action (Granovetter, 1985).

Accordingly, this study seeks to answer three main research questions: (1) How does digitalization influence the implementation of the Beta Mandiri Program in Southwest Maluku Regency? (2) How do youth contribute to pentahelix collaboration in strengthening local potential-based community economies? and (3) What opportunities and structural constraints influence youth participation and digital economic collaboration within an archipelagic regional context?

The study examines the proposition that the developmental relevance of digitalization depends on the capacity of locally embedded actors to connect technology use with social relationships, institutional resources, and feasible economic activities. The case offers an interpretive account of these mechanisms; it does not claim that digitalization alone causes local economic growth.

State of the Art

Digital transformation research links information access, communication networks, and online participation to new economic possibilities, while also documenting persistent differences in infrastructure, skills, and outcomes (Castells, 2010; OECD, 2020; van Dijk, 2020). These differences are especially relevant when online promotion involves products that must still be transported between islands. Digital transformation also involves changes in activities and organizational arrangements, not merely the adoption of devices or platforms (Vial, 2019).

Studies of youth in local digital economies recognize their entrepreneurial and community roles. Annisa and Supriono (2025) discuss digital entrepreneurship and youth as actors in local economic change, whereas Pratama et al. (2025) report on a digital-economy empowerment initiative involving youth and pentahelix cooperation. These studies support the relevance of youth participation but do not, by themselves, explain how young people mediate each institutional relationship in the Beta Mandiri setting.

Research on collaborative governance emphasizes the importance of interaction, dialogue, and shared commitment rather than the formal membership of participating organizations (Ansell & Gash, 2008). Pentahelix studies likewise examine partnerships across public, private, educational, community, and media actors (Sa'adah & Siswanto, 2025; Sukarso & Dasuki, 2026). The analytical challenge is to identify the concrete practices through which such actors exchange information, knowledge, and resources.

The contribution of this article is therefore situated at the intersection of three questions: who mediates relationships among pentahelix actors, how digital channels are used in that mediation, and what constraints limit the economic significance of these connections in an archipelagic setting. The argument does not assume that such a mechanism is absent from all previous studies; rather, it examines the mechanism in an underrepresented local context.

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Published by *Fisipol – UMTS Press*.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

JURNAL ILMIAH MUQODDIMAH:
Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora
Vol. 10 No. 4 November 2026
E-ISSN : 2598-6236 (Media Online)
http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id/index.php/muqoddimah
DOI : https://doi.org/10.31604/jim.v10i4.2026

Submitted: 06/10/2026; Revised: 19/10/2026;
Accepted: 10/11/2026; Published: 10/11/2026

Youth are treated as actors operating across institutional boundaries while remaining situated within the community component of the pentahelix. The empirical analysis follows their reported roles in sharing government information, communicating with facilitators, promoting local products, engaging prospective buyers, and sustaining community contact. These activities are understood as relational practices rather than evidence of a separate institutional helix.

The region's geography also makes it necessary to examine the limits of digital mediation. Greater access to online audiences can coexist with weak internet connections, interrupted production, shipping difficulties, and obligations associated with kinship networks. These constraints help explain why digital presence and economic returns should not be treated as equivalent.

This study brings youth agency, digital communication, collaboration, and local resources into one analytical frame. Its contribution is to trace how reported activities connect these dimensions in the Beta Mandiri Program, rather than to measure the independent effects of each dimension or generalize statistically to other islands.

For this purpose, the article uses the concept of Digitally Mediated Youth Pentahelix Agency. It refers to youth participants' capacity to use digital channels to communicate, translate information, and coordinate relationships among government, academia, business, communities, and media in support of local economic activities. The concept describes a relational mechanism identified in this case; it is not presented as a universally validated theory.

The conceptual contribution is complemented by a Youth-Centered Digital Pentahelix Model, introduced in the Discussion section as a visual synthesis of the findings. The concept explains the role of youth as intermediaries, while the model organizes the relationships among local potential, community actors, digital practices, and the five collaborating institutions.

METHODS

This study adopts a qualitative case-study design to examine youth participation, digital practices, and stakeholder relationships within the Beta Mandiri Program in Southwest Maluku Regency (Yin, 2018). The case is the program and its collaboration processes; participating actors from four study districts provide perspectives on its implementation.

A qualitative design was chosen to explore how participants describe their roles, interactions, and challenges. The study does not evaluate program effectiveness through before-and-after indicators or calculate changes in participants' earnings. Its conclusions concern reported practices and the meanings attributed to them by program actors (Creswell & Poth, 2018).

The material reported in the manuscript was obtained from in-depth interviews, observations, and document analysis. Interviews focused on program implementation, youth participation, digital communication, local products, institutional relationships, and constraints affecting collaboration.

Informants were selected purposively according to their involvement in or knowledge of the program. The 20 informants comprised the following participants across the relevant pentahelix elements and local economic groups:

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Published by *Fisipol – UMTS Press*.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

JURNAL ILMIAH MUQODDIMAH:
Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora
Vol. 10 No. 4 November 2026
E-ISSN : 2598-6236 (Media Online)
http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id/index.php/muqoddimah
DOI : https://doi.org/10.31604/jim.v10i4.2026

Submitted: 06/10/2026; Revised: 19/10/2026;
Accepted: 10/11/2026; Published: 10/11/2026

- 1 representative of the local government;
- 4 youth participants involved in the Beta Mandiri Program, each representing one of the four districts where the pentahelix program was implemented;
- 4 MSME actors/community economic group representatives, distributed across the four districts where the Beta Mandiri Pentahelix Program was implemented;
- 1 academic or program facilitator;
- 4 business actors, each representing the respective districts;
- 2 media/digital communication actors; and
- 4 community leaders or program beneficiaries, each representing one of the four districts where the Beta Mandiri Program was implemented.

The total was 20 informants: one government representative, four youth participants, four MSME or community economic-group representatives, one academic or facilitator, four business actors, two media or digital communication actors, and four community leaders or beneficiaries. The reported selection covered four districts, although the manuscript does not provide sufficient detail to compare each district systematically.

The material was organized and interpreted using qualitative data reduction, coding, categorization, and thematic comparison across informant groups, following Miles et al. (2014). The analysis attended to five topics: changing roles of youth, platform use, interaction among pentahelix actors, product visibility and local markets, and structural or socio-cultural constraints. The findings are presented as thematic interpretations supported by the interview accounts and examples available in the study, without attributing numerical prevalence to themes.

Interview accounts were considered alongside observations and research documents as a form of source triangulation. Because the material summarized in this manuscript does not specify the fieldwork dates, individual interview records, or a formal inter-coder procedure, no additional claims are made about these procedures. The bounded case-study design limits transferability and does not establish causal economic effects.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From Beneficiaries to Actors: The Changing Position of Youth in the Beta Mandiri Program

The interviews indicate that youth participation in the Beta Mandiri Program extends beyond receiving assistance. Participants reported opportunities to propose ideas, join discussions, assist in activities, and communicate with institutions outside their immediate communities. These accounts suggest an emerging role in program facilitation and inter-actor communication rather than a uniform transformation among all young people in Southwest Maluku.

In the combined account attributed in the source material to four youth participants (FK, 29; MU, 31; HL, 27; and RM, 28; interviewed in Tiakur), the participants described beginning as beneficiaries and later gaining opportunities to contribute ideas and interact

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Published by *Fisipol – UMTS Press*.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

JURNAL ILMIAH MUQODDIMAH:
Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora
Vol. 10 No. 4 November 2026
E-ISSN : 2598-6236 (Media Online)
http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id/index.php/muqoddimah
DOI : https://doi.org/10.31604/jim.v10i4.2026

Submitted: 06/10/2026; Revised: 19/10/2026;
Accepted: 10/11/2026; Published: 10/11/2026

directly with government officers, academics, business actors, and media contacts. Their account emphasizes learning, stronger networks, and increased confidence in participating in local development. Because the source reports a combined account rather than individually attributed verbatim statements, it is presented here as a synthesis of interview evidence.

This reported change matters because it concerns participation in decision-making and implementation, not simply access to digital devices. It suggests that mentoring and opportunities to communicate with other actors may help participants develop practical confidence and collaborative capabilities. The available evidence does not show that the same progression occurred for every program participant. This distinction between being included in activities and exercising influence is consistent with the participation framework discussed by Checkoway (2011).

The youth accounts describe different connections within the pentahelix: government contacts for program communication, academics for learning and facilitation, business actors for entrepreneurship and market information, and media contacts for publicity. These exchanges indicate how youth can link community priorities with institutions holding different resources (Ansell & Gash, 2008). The evidence supports an intermediary role, while the extent of sustained participation across the five actor groups remains to be established.

The distinction is therefore between a program delivered to youth and one in which youth participate as collaborators. In this case, the reported involvement of young people in communication, promotion, and implementation illustrates the second orientation. This is an account of changing roles, not a measured claim of higher income or greater employment.

In the context of Southwest Maluku Regency (MBD), this role is particularly significant because geographical distance between local communities and institutional centers can limit the effectiveness of top-down development interventions. Youth therefore function as local actors who translate formal programs into practices that are relevant to the everyday realities of local communities.

Youth as Digital Intermediaries

A second theme concerns digital intermediation: the use of digital communication to connect producers and other community members with information, institutions, and potential customers. Participants described using smartphones and social media for activity coordination, product documentation, communication, and promotion. Such work may be particularly valuable where access to institutions and markets is constrained by distance.

The reported digital practices differed by platform. WhatsApp groups and messages supported communication about activities, training information, product photos, prices, and enquiries. Facebook and Instagram were used to publicize local products and program activities; short videos on TikTok offered a format for presenting products and production activities. These functions should be understood as reported uses or opportunities, not as evidence that every participant used each platform consistently or achieved measurable sales growth.

The distinction between visibility, enquiry, transaction, and delivery is important. Social-media posts and digital catalogues may expose products to wider audiences; direct messages may then enable conversations about availability, prices, orders, and shipping.

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Published by *Fisipol – UMTS Press*.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

JURNAL ILMIAH MUQODDIMAH:
Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora
Vol. 10 No. 4 November 2026
E-ISSN : 2598-6236 (Media Online)
http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id/index.php/muqoddimah
DOI : https://doi.org/10.31604/jim.v10i4.2026

Submitted: 06/10/2026; Revised: 19/10/2026;
Accepted: 10/11/2026; Published: 10/11/2026

Nevertheless, the source material does not report transaction volumes, conversion rates, or changes in revenue. The supported finding is that youth facilitate digital communication and promotion, with market expansion remaining a possibility conditioned by production and logistics. These conditions are compatible with Nambisan's (2017) account of digitally enabled entrepreneurial possibilities, but the interview material does not demonstrate realized commercial outcomes.

The accounts also indicate that digital practices are connected to the social relationships through which young people already participate in community life. A message forwarded through a trusted contact, for example, can connect formal program information to local producers. Thus, the intermediary role combines digital literacy with familiarity with local needs and networks, rather than replacing in-person engagement.

In an archipelagic setting, these digital connections can help actors coordinate despite distance, yet they cannot guarantee reliable internet service or move products across islands. This tension provides an important boundary to claims about the developmental effects of platform use (van Dijk, 2020).

Digitalization of Local Products: From Production to Visibility

A third theme is the visibility of products based on local potential. Youth can help producers photograph goods, prepare descriptive content, circulate product information, and respond to enquiries. Examples identified in the manuscript include buffalo jerky from Moa Island, locally grown corn, and mandekar prepared from locally available agricultural products. These examples illustrate the range of local commodities discussed in the case; they are not a representative inventory of all program businesses.



Digital visibility may allow products previously introduced primarily through local and kinship networks to be noticed outside their immediate production areas. This potential is analytically distinct from confirmed expansion in sales. The evidence in this study demonstrates promotional practices and perceived opportunities rather than verified changes in market performance.

Converting promotion into sustained economic benefits also depends on packaging, quality, consistent supply, transport costs, delivery arrangements, payments, and customer relationships. Such material conditions are especially significant when producers and consumers are located on different islands.

The four youth informants (FK, MU, HL, and RM) also identified obligations to family members and relatives as a factor shaping the availability of products for online sale. Their jointly reported account described situations in which products intended for digital marketing were instead allocated to family gatherings, reflecting the importance of reciprocal kinship obligations in local economic decisions. This account should not be interpreted as evidence that community values are inherently incompatible with digital entrepreneurship.

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Published by *Fisipol – UMTS Press*.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

JURNAL ILMIAH MUQODDIMAH:
Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora
Vol. 10 No. 4 November 2026
E-ISSN : 2598-6236 (Media Online)
http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id/index.php/muqoddimah
DOI : https://doi.org/10.31604/jim.v10i4.2026

Submitted: 06/10/2026; Revised: 19/10/2026;
Accepted: 10/11/2026; Published: 10/11/2026

This finding highlights the social embeddedness of economic action: decisions about distribution reflect relationships, mutual obligations, and considerations other than price alone (Granovetter, 1985). Digital economic initiatives need to accommodate these social priorities while supporting feasible and transparent arrangements for product supply.

Youth as Bridging Actors in Pentahelix Collaboration in Southwest Maluku (MBD)

A fourth theme concerns the bridging function of youth. Pentahelix collaboration does not operate solely through a list of participating organizations; it depends on communication among actors holding different resources. The youth accounts identify several kinds of connection made through program activities and digital channels.
The reported connections can be summarized as follows:

Government ↔ Communities through program communication and community mobilization;
Academia ↔ Communities through training and knowledge transfer;
Business Sector ↔ Local Producers through market information and entrepreneurial networks;
Media ↔ Local Products through digital content and promotion; and
Communities ↔ Digital Networks through technological mediation.
The four youth informants' joint account illustrates this bridging role:

Youth participants (FK, MU, HL, and RM) described passing community needs to government representatives, receiving knowledge and assistance from academic facilitators, engaging business actors about product development and markets, and using WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram for publicity. They also emphasized remaining connected to local communities as the source of the products and knowledge being developed. This synthesis reflects the account reported in the manuscript; it is not a newly constructed verbatim quotation.

These practices suggest a relational mechanism: youth translate information across institutional boundaries while maintaining local community connections. In terms of collaborative governance, this mechanism may help actors interact despite different mandates and resources (Ansell & Gash, 2008). However, the available material documents reported links more clearly than it documents the durability, reciprocity, or formalization of every relationship. The article therefore identifies a possible bridging function rather than claiming a fully institutionalized collaboration. The need for clear roles and coordination mechanisms is also emphasized in the network-governance literature (Provan & Kenis, 2008).

Digitalization Strengthens Program Consolidation but Does Not Replace Social Capital

The fifth theme is the continued importance of face-to-face relationships, trust, kinship, and informal cooperation. Digital media can accelerate the circulation of information, but these relationships shape whose information is trusted and how program participants respond to invitations or market opportunities. Digital and offline networks appear to complement one another in the Beta Mandiri case.

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Published by *Fisipol – UMTS Press*.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

JURNAL ILMIAH MUQODDIMAH:
Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora
Vol. 10 No. 4 November 2026
E-ISSN : 2598-6236 (Media Online)
http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id/index.php/muqoddimah
DOI : https://doi.org/10.31604/jim.v10i4.2026

Submitted: 06/10/2026; Revised: 19/10/2026;
Accepted: 10/11/2026; Published: 10/11/2026

The interview summary involving youth informants, business actors, and local government representatives reported that WhatsApp and Facebook facilitated communication, coordination, promotion, and activity consolidation. The same summary emphasized that trust, family ties, personal meetings, and mutual cooperation remained central to collaborative activity. These themes are reported as an interview synthesis rather than as a single verbatim quotation attributable to all participants.

The relationship between digital networking and social capital is therefore reciprocal. Existing social ties can support the use of digital communication, while online interaction can broaden contacts and increase the circulation of information. This interpretation aligns with analyses of embedded economic relations and social capital (Bourdieu, 1986; Granovetter, 1985). It should not be taken to mean that every local relationship produces positive economic effects or that trust can be inferred merely from platform use.

Structural Challenges: Digital Divide, Geography, and Institutional Sustainability

Five constraints recur in the study material. First, uneven internet infrastructure limits participation across island locations. Second, unequal digital skills mean that access to smartphones does not necessarily enable productive commercial use. Third, transport and inter-island logistics remain necessary even where buyers and producers communicate online. Fourth, product supply, packaging, and consistency may not match the expectations created by promotion. Fifth, coordination built around a particular program may weaken when formal activity or support ends. The accounts also show that kinship obligations can influence product allocation. These are qualitative themes, not statistically ranked barriers.

The findings are consistent with the argument that digital inequality involves access, capabilities, opportunities, and the benefits of use (van Dijk, 2020). They also reinforce the need to distinguish digital connection from physical market integration. Strengthening the collaboration consequently requires attention to offline production and delivery systems alongside communication technology. Research on rural digital inclusion and differentiated internet use reinforces the need to address both infrastructure and capability constraints (Salemink et al., 2017; van Deursen & van Dijk, 2014).

DISCUSSION: TOWARD A YOUTH-CENTERED DIGITAL PENTAHELIX MODEL

The study proposes a Youth-Centered Digital Pentahelix Model as an interpretive synthesis, not as a model whose effectiveness has been independently tested. It depicts local communities and resources as the foundation of economic activities, youth as intermediaries, digital channels as communication and promotional instruments, and the five pentahelix actors as sources of differentiated support. The model develops the concept of Digitally Mediated Youth Pentahelix Agency by organizing three related forms of embeddedness:

First, local embeddedness refers to youth participants' continuing relationships with local communities, social norms, and resources. The interview accounts indicate that such familiarity helps them understand producer needs and kinship obligations, although the strength of these ties varies among participants.

Second, institutional embeddedness refers to youth participation in program activities and relationships with government, academic facilitators, businesses, and media contacts.

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Published by *Fisipol – UMTS Press*.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

JURNAL ILMIAH MUQODDIMAH:
Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora
Vol. 10 No. 4 November 2026
E-ISSN : 2598-6236 (Media Online)
http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id/index.php/muqoddimah
DOI : https://doi.org/10.31604/jim.v10i4.2026

Submitted: 06/10/2026; Revised: 19/10/2026;
Accepted: 10/11/2026; Published: 10/11/2026

These connections create opportunities to communicate needs and obtain information, knowledge, and access to networks.

Third, digital embeddedness refers to participants' use of messaging and social-media platforms for coordination, documentation, information exchange, and promotion. Digital participation becomes developmentally relevant when connected to the first two forms of embeddedness.

Together, these dimensions suggest a pathway from local resources and community priorities, through youth-mediated institutional and digital interaction, toward product visibility and possible market connections. The proposed diagram illustrates this pathway. It should not be read as a causal sequence or as proof that all participating actors contribute equally.

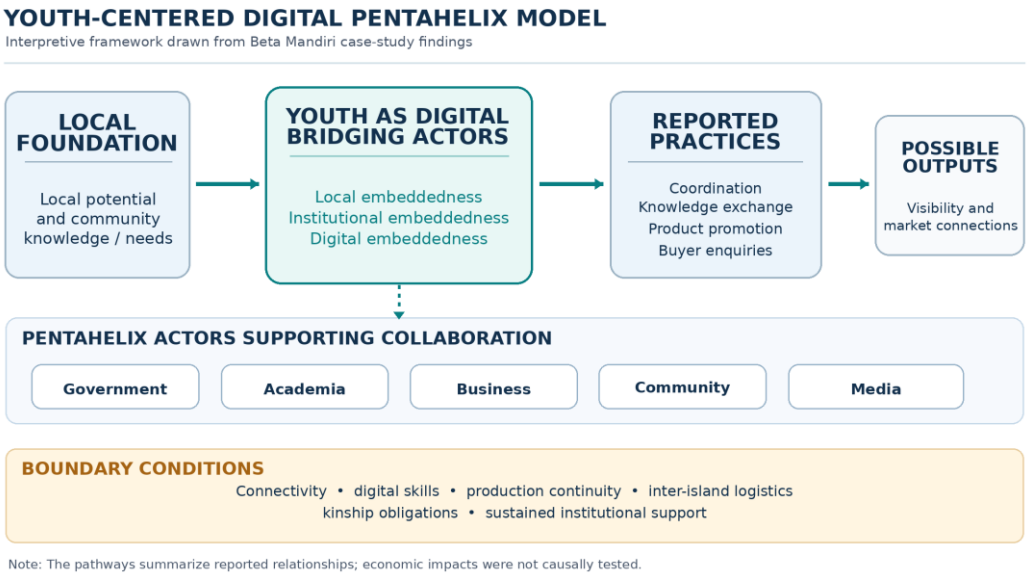


Figure 1. Youth-Centered Digital Pentahelix Model (interpretive synthesis of the case findings).

The model depicts local potential and communities as the foundation of economic activity. Youth provide an intermediary connection to government, academia, businesses, communities, and media, while digital channels facilitate information exchange, coordination, product promotion, and contact with potential markets. Relationships of trust and cooperation remain relevant to each stage. The model also incorporates the central limitation identified in the results: digital contact does not itself secure production, logistics, purchases, or sustained institutional support.

The article's theoretical contribution is a contextual account of how youth agency can mediate pentahelix relationships through digital practices. Its practical implication is that local development programs should support youth as participants in collaboration while also attending to telecommunications, training, quality and supply arrangements, and inter-island logistics. Further research using transaction data, longitudinal observation, and comparisons across islands would be needed to test whether these arrangements improve income or program sustainability. This attention to enabling organizational conditions is consistent with digital-transformation scholarship (Vial, 2019).

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Published by *Fisipol – UMTS Press*.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

JURNAL ILMIAH MUQODDIMAH:
Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora
Vol. 10 No. 4 November 2026
E-ISSN : 2598-6236 (Media Online)
http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id/index.php/muqoddimah
DOI : https://doi.org/10.31604/jim.v10i4.2026

Submitted: 06/10/2026; Revised: 19/10/2026;
Accepted: 10/11/2026; Published: 10/11/2026

CONCLUSION

This qualitative case study indicates that youth participating in the Beta Mandiri Program help connect local producers and communities with institutional stakeholders through communication, facilitation, and digital promotion. Their reported roles extend beyond receiving program assistance to contributing ideas, communicating with pentahelix actors, and publicizing local products.

Digital channels, particularly WhatsApp and social media, were described as useful for coordination, product documentation, and outreach. The findings therefore support a claim about opportunities for information exchange and visibility; they do not demonstrate a quantified increase in sales, employment, or household income.

These opportunities remain constrained by uneven connectivity and digital skills, transportation and delivery costs, product availability, family obligations, and the uncertain continuity of relationships tied to a formal program. The case shows why platform use must be examined alongside the institutional and social conditions of local economic activity.

The study's conceptual contribution is Digitally Mediated Youth Pentahelix Agency: youth participants' capacity to mediate relationships among the five pentahelix actor groups through digital and offline interactions. The accompanying Youth-Centered Digital Pentahelix Model presents this mechanism as a context-specific analytical framework rather than a generally validated development intervention.

For practice, program managers should create meaningful opportunities for youth involvement in decisions and coordination, strengthen digital and entrepreneurial capabilities, and connect promotional activities with production support, delivery arrangements, and sustained partnerships. These recommendations follow from the identified constraints and require further evaluation in implementation.

The study is limited to the reported experiences of 20 purposively selected informants associated with one program. The material presented does not establish the duration of effects, verify market transactions, or permit statistical generalization. Comparative and longitudinal research can examine whether youth-mediated collaboration persists beyond program activities and produces measurable economic results.

The evidence thus suggests that digitalization is most useful when it supports relationships among communities, youth, and institutions and is accompanied by practical arrangements for the production and movement of goods in archipelagic settings.

References

Annisa, Y., & Supriono, A. (2025). Transformasi peran pemuda dalam ekonomi lokal berbasis digital. Jurnal Kommunity Online, 6(2), 126–142. https://doi.org/10.15408/jko.v6i2.45795

Ansell, C., & Gash, A. (2008). Collaborative governance in theory and practice. Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, 18(4), 543–571. https://doi.org/10.1093/jopart/mum032

Bourdieu, P. (1986). The forms of capital. In J. Richardson (Ed.), Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education (pp. 241–258). Greenwood.

Carayannis, E. G., Barth, T. D., & Campbell, D. F. J. (2012). The Quintuple Helix innovation model: Global warming as a challenge and driver for innovation. Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, 1, Article 2. https://doi.org/10.1186/2192-5372-1-2

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Published by *Fisipol – UMTS Press*.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

JURNAL ILMIAH MUQODDIMAH:
Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora
Vol. 10 No. 4 November 2026
E-ISSN : 2598-6236 (Media Online)
http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id/index.php/muqoddimah
DOI : https://doi.org/10.31604/jim.v10i4.2026

Submitted: 06/10/2026; Revised: 19/10/2026;
Accepted: 10/11/2026; Published: 10/11/2026

Castells, M. (2010). The Rise of the Network Society (2nd ed.). Wiley-Blackwell.

Checkoway, B. (2011). What is youth participation? *Children and Youth Services Review* 33(2), 340–345. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2010.09.017

Creswell, J. W., & Poth, C. N. (2018). Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches (4th ed.). Sage.

Etzkowitz, H., & Leydesdorff, L. (2000). The dynamics of innovation: From National Systems and "Mode 2" to a Triple Helix of university–industry–government relations. Research Policy, 29(2), 109–123.

Granovetter, M. (1985). Economic action and social structure: The problem of embeddedness. American Journal of Sociology, 91(3), 481–510.

Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldaña, J. (2014). Qualitative data analysis: A methods sourcebook (3rd ed.). SAGE Publications.

Nambisan, S. (2017). Digital entrepreneurship: Toward a digital technology perspective of entrepreneurship. *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, 41(6), 1029–1055. https://doi.org/10.1111/etap.12254

OECD. (2020). Digital Transformation in the Age of COVID-19: Building Resilience and Bridging Divides. OECD.

Pratama, I. N., Hadi, A., Kusuma, L. S. T., Pratama, D. W., & Saputra, A. (2025). Penguatan peran pemuda melalui Digital Economy for Youth berbasis pentahelix dalam kemajuan ekonomi daerah di Desa Gondang. Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Bhinneka, 3(4), 674–680. https://doi.org/10.58266/jpmb.v3i4.241

Provan, K. G., & Kenis, P. (2008). Modes of network governance: Structure, management, and effectiveness. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 18(2), 229–252. https://doi.org/10.1093/jopart/mum015

Sa'adah, H., & Siswanto. (2025). Integrating Islamic economic values into the pentahelix model for developing a sustainable digital entrepreneurship ecosystem. IQTISHODUNA: Jurnal Ekonomi Islam, 14(2), 633–652. https://doi.org/10.54471/iqtishoduna.v14i2.2191

Salemink, K., Strijker, D., & Bosworth, G. (2017). Rural development in the digital age: A systematic literature review on unequal ICT availability, adoption, and use in rural areas. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 54, 360–371. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2015.09.001

Sukarso, S., & Dasuki, N. P. (2026). The pentahelix model in the public sector: Cooperative or collaborative? Technium Social Sciences Journal, 86(1), 1–16. https://doi.org/10.47577/tssj.v86i1.13777

van Deursen, A. J. A. M., & van Dijk, J. A. G. M. (2014). The digital divide shifts to differences in usage. *New Media & Society*, 16(3), 507–526. https://doi.org/10.1177/1461444813487959

van Dijk, J. (2020). The Digital Divide. Polity Press.

Vial, G. (2019). Understanding digital transformation: A review and a research agenda. *The Journal of Strategic Information Systems*, 28(2), 118–144. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsis.2019.01.003

Yin, R. K. (2018). Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Methods (6th ed.). Sage.

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Published by *Fisipol – UMTS Press*.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.