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Community Participation and the Effectiveness of Local Social Welfare Programmes in Bangladesh

Nahin Anzoom Sayed[1*]

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ABSTRACT

Community involvement is of real value for the design and assessment of local social welfare programmes as they know their needs and the agencies operating conditions. The focus in this study is on the relationship between community participation and perceived programme effectiveness mediated by perceived programme responsiveness. Synthetic dataset of 320 questionnaires' response records was analysed by the method of PLS-SEM. There were 15 indicators for the three constructs and 5000 bootstrap samples were used. All the indicators showed satisfactory loadings, and the measurement structure showed internal consistency, convergent validity, and discriminant validity. Community participation and perceived programme effectiveness were directly positively associated ($\beta = 0.274$) as was community participation and perceived programme responsiveness ($\beta = 0.489$). There was a positive correlation between responsiveness and effectiveness ($\beta = 0.458$). The indirect relationship through responsiveness was positive ($\beta = 0.224$, 95% confidence interval 0.158–0.297), indicating complementary statistical mediation. The model accounted for 23.9% of the variance in responsiveness and 40.8% in effectiveness. All endogenous indicators were positive PPV when cross validated repeatedly. The results demonstrate how the meaningful engagement of communities and responsive administration of programmes can be explored in an integrated approach to welfare governance. Practical suggestions include arrangements for accessible consultation, documented handling of feedback, inclusion of participation, monitoring of responses in a programme. The analysis offers a structured foundation to analyse these relationships in the context of local social welfare provision in Bangladesh.

INTRODUCTION

Social welfare policies are tied to the conditions of people and families in need through the local social welfare programme. Their effectiveness will rely on the link between the programme goals and the actual experiences of accessing support. The delivery structure, defined eligibility categories for a programme can all be worked out without needing a detailed knowledge of the needs of those who will be accessing it. Community participation offers a means of obtaining that knowledge. Residents can take part in a discussion, review and feedback which allows them to express their needs for care and what changes in service provision mean to them in terms of access (Follett & Henderson, 2022).

The present study is a reflection on the involvement of community to play a meaningful role in programme decisions. This definition encompasses discussions, prioritization, operations review and influence on improvements. It focuses on the substance of participation. Attendance at a meeting is information of contact with a programme, meaningful participation is information on whether community members can contribute to decision making (Sarker & Nawaz, 2021). The difference is particularly important for programme authorities to be aware of when explaining if consultation arrangements are linked to perceived welfare benefits.

Responsiveness of the programme can provide a route to making participation relevant to effectiveness. Residents can tell of a problem but the actual value of that communication must be the action taken by those who do the work. A responsive programme responds promptly to concerns, resolves issues raised, makes appropriate changes in delivery arrangements and evaluates and develops services using the feedback. These activities link community persons' input with administrative decisions. Responsiveness thus offers a viable thread to connect the opportunity to participate with the perception of accomplishing the intended goals of a programme (Uddin & Kaiser, 2021).

Programme effectiveness as perceived is the overall contribution to locality well-being attributed to a programme. Achievement of intended objectives, improvement in living conditions, attention to relevant welfare needs, reduction of hardship and delivery of intended benefits are all part of the construct. It reflects an evaluative judgement about the programme. Such judgements have meaning for users because they are the ones who live with the impact of the programme arrangements which are implemented (Ahmad *et al.*, 2022). They are also distinct from administrative counts of registrations, payments or distributions, which can provide information on activities, but not necessarily on the experiences of those activities.

The model is set in Bangladesh. The questionnaire asks about local programmes available to provide cash, food, education, disability or livelihood support. Although the aims of these different supports are different in the short-term, there is a need for dialogue between those

[1] Department of Public Administration, Bangladesh University of Professionals, Bangladesh
[*] Corresponding author's e-mail: nahinanzoom97@gmail.com

who deliver the programme and those who have had first hand experience of implementing it. This study thus adopts a shared governance structure and each response record asks for reference to one programme. Throughout the instrument this design provides a consistent point of reference for participation, responsiveness and effectiveness (Noya, 2024).

The research problem is related to the analytical linkage between the three concepts. A positive relationship between participation and effectiveness suggests that there is meaningful involvement with the community and welfare evaluation is favourable once responsiveness is taken into account. An indirect relationship implies that participation is connected with effectiveness via the programme's response to needs and concerns (Al Qhuraissy, 2025). An investigation of both relationships provides a clear sense of whether responsiveness offers an additional pathway of explanation, and whether the direct relationship is relevant in the same model.

The overall goal is to evaluate community participation in the local social welfare programmes' perceived effectiveness in Bangladesh using an integrated programme responsiveness model. Specific objectives are to examine direct participation–effectiveness relationship, to examine association between participation and responsiveness, to examine responsiveness–effectiveness relationship, and to test indirect participation–effectiveness relationship through responsiveness. These are stated as objectives that relate to four hypotheses that help to maintain the conceptual and statistical relationships.

The study adds a clear distinction between three stages (community involvement, administrative response, and welfare evaluation). This difference allows us to use a separate set of indicators for each concept. It also offers a functional definition of mediation programme authorities are required to translate information gained in the process of participation into action to meet service needs. Thus the model draws attention to the connection between participatory processes and the practices in administration that provide the processes with an actual value (M. Rahman, 2023).

A simulation-based application of this framework is presented, which uses the available questionnaire and statistical results. Its analytical contribution is that it demonstrates the simultaneous evaluation of the quality of measurement, direct association, statistical mediation, explained variance, and predictive performance. The implications for the design of the programme are discussed on the basis of the structure of the model and the pattern of the estimates. Recommendations are presented as proposed administration practices, referring to the inclusion, communication, handling of feedback and evaluating the program responses.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Community Participation in Local Welfare Governance

Community participation is an umbrella term for activities that engage community members in community decisions that have impact on their health and well-being as individuals and in groups. This involvement can be related to identifying needs and discussing the service arrangement, reviewing service implementation or proposing changes within a local assistance programme (Follett & Henderson, 2022). Participation opens the door to those who are affected by a procedure in the programme communicating what would not otherwise be covered in a routine administrative reporting. This information can include the availability of service sites, understandability of instructions, timing of service, and challenges in applying or renewing services (Uddin & Kaiser, 2021).

The value of the participation is determined by the role community contributions play. When the consultation process has substantive meaning, participants are able to express their concerns, appreciate the decisions under consideration, and get an explanation for what will happen next (Sarker & Nawaz, 2021). This means that meaningful participation must ensure opportunities for input to programme arrangements as well as opportunities to speak. The five participation indicators included in this study reflect that understanding: Voice, Active discussion, Priority identification, Operational review and Influencer of improvements (Ahmad *et al.*, 2022).

Participation can also help to interpret programme objectives. The administrative descriptions of welfare needs tend to be general categories, while residents can describe how these needs are manifested in particular homes and communities. This knowledge can guide programme authorities on the variations among the target population (Islam *et al.*, 2022). Older persons, those with disabilities, carers and those who rely on work could all have different realities when the same service is required, for instance. These examples demonstrate the concept of relevance of participation without assuming specific burdens would be measured in the current analysis (Noya, 2024).

There must be a difference between individual involvement and community involvement, as perceived by the community. The questionnaire records if the selected person took part in a meeting, consultation, feedback activity or discussion (Al Qhuraissy, 2025). The "latent" construct, however, is more about the general attitude of community members about the programme. The direct programme experience and community involvement assessment can be done without attending a consultation. This separation retains the model for the participatory environment of the programme, without losing the descriptive aspect of personal participation (M. Rahman, 2023).

Perceived Programme Responsiveness

Programme responsiveness is the degree of response by the programme authorities regarding the needs and concerns of the people they serve. It covers the reaction to a reported problem and the changes in delivery arrangements which may be required due to changing circumstances (Aktar *et al.*, 2024). Information has to be received in a responsive programme, its relevance analysed, an action to be taken decided upon and that

action communicated. These stages are administrative and add an administrative element to the concept of responsiveness, separate from the opportunity of participation (M. Rahman *et al.*, 2023).

One aspect of responsiveness is promptness, delays in response can impact the usefulness of an administrative response. It is also crucial to ensure the appropriateness: a swift response does not solve the problem, which is raised (Ferdous *et al.*, 2024). Therefore, the measurement protocol involves addressing the reported issues and making changes in delivery arrangements. It also incorporates the use of feedback for improving services and support for those in need of extra support to access services. These indicators as a whole are the indicators of responsiveness as ongoing programme behaviours (Tanvir *et al.*, 2023).

Responsiveness is especially pertinent when help is being provided for multiple needs. There are various requirements for delivering cash assistance, food assistance, education assistance, disability assistance, and livelihood activities. The important point is that in both, the administration is to be adapted to the situation of the planned users. A general responsiveness measure can thus measure whether or not authorities listen and adjust and whether each programme has its specific welfare goal (Madajewicz *et al.*, 2021).

It is also an accountability aspect. Community members can understand how a concern was considered and what action ensued when programme authorities provide explanations. This is an explanation that can be used to evaluate if a participatory process has a practical consequence (Goswami, 2024). While the study is not formally assigning a score of institutional accountability, the conceptual association can be helpful to understand why responsiveness can be in the middle of the participation to effectiveness bridge (Muhammad Ahsan & Jahan, 2022).

Perceived Programme Effectiveness

Programme effectiveness is an overall judgement of whether a programme makes a contribution to welfare that is indicated by its selection. It mixes judgments with respect to objectives and benefits with judgments relating to living conditions, needs and hardship (Fattah, 2024). These elements provide construct a substantive range, but with a similar evaluative gaze. A positive reaction suggests that the programme is considered to be giving the contribution it was created to give (Shakila Yasmin, 2022).

Effectiveness is to be viewed as applicable to the programme chosen by each respondent. There are distinct short-term goals for an education assistance programme and a food assistance programme (S. Rahman, 2025). Is it right to ask whether each attains its desired ends to offer a shared ground for assessing them without assuming the benefits to be the same? The questionnaire applies this approach as it asks for one programme reference for all the answers that follow.

Perceived effectiveness does not equal responsiveness. Responsiveness reflects the attitude of the programme authorities in situations where needs and concerns do emerge. Effectiveness relates to the overall welfare value given to the programme (M. Rahman, 2023). The two can be linked, as administrative changes can enhance the actual benefit of support. Their conceptual separation allows us to explore that relationship instead of considering favourable attitudes toward administration and favourable attitudes toward welfare outcomes as one construct (Chowdhury & Islam, 2025).

Participation and Perceived Effectiveness

Relevance of programme decisions can be linked to community participation in terms of perceived effectiveness. If the residents participate in the process of identifying priorities, it will give programme authorities information about what they can expect from the assistance, locally (Jahan, 2023). Activities to review can also provide an indication of the programme objectives and whether the existing delivery arrangements are compatible with these. Participation thus offers an idea around which programme decisions can be related to the welfare needs that will be judged for effectiveness (Asma *et al.*, 2023).

Participation may additionally influence how programme arrangements are understood. Discussion with meaning can help to clarify the purpose of assistance, the extent of available supports and the responsibilities of the implementing personnel. This knowledge can aid a more informed programme performance assessment. The direct relationship in the model reflects the association between participation and effectiveness above responsiveness (Salahuddin *et al.*, 2023). Not all relevant participatory contributions need to go through the specific responsiveness indicators.

Therefore the first hypothesis is set as follows. H1: Perceived programme effectiveness is positively related to community participation.

Participation and Programme Responsiveness

Participation generates an organised source of information for the programme authorities. Residents can share some of the most common challenges, how they feel they are similar within households, and what they think should be done (Chowdhury & Islam, 2025). If programme authorities apply these contributions, the more that participants are involved the more they should perceive responsiveness. The relationship is conceptual in that hinges on the link between the information communicated and the administrative response that ensues (Tanjil Ahmed *et al.*, 2022).

The involvement in operational review has special relevance as it can help to identify issues once a programme has started. There are often changes or modifications in the needs and delivery conditions throughout the implementation process and communication is helpful (Hasan & Ara, 2022). In the participation construct,

influence of improvements and responsive construct: adaptation and feedback use. These remain separate: the first a question of how the community is engaged in making decisions and the second a question of what action or inaction the authorities take on the needs and concerns expressed (Shakila Yasmin, 2022).

The second hypothesis is therefore stated as follows. H2: Community participation is positively associated with perceived programme responsiveness.

Responsiveness and Perceived Effectiveness

Responsiveness may be linked with effectiveness: the delivery arrangements must be appropriate for users, and the assistance will be more useful the more responsive the programme. Taking the right steps to address issues that are reported can positively alter access, and making changes to the evolving needs can maintain the relevance of support (Muhammad Ahsan & Jahan, 2022). The conceptual pathway refers to the administrative process of integrating information into service decisions for the intended users, with the intended users experiencing the decisions as useful.

Responsiveness indicators also apply to the population that needs extra support to access services. Such needs may facilitate programme arrangements in reaching individuals where normal arrangements are not easy to use (Uddin & Kaiser, 2021). The effectiveness construct is used to determine if the programme meets welfare needs and decreases hardship. This link gives a substantive basis for believing that there should be a positive relationship between responsive administration and positive welfare evaluations (Ahmad *et al.*, 2022).

The third hypothesis is thus formulated. H3: Perceived programme responsiveness is positively associated with perceived programme effectiveness.

The Mediating Role of Responsiveness

The foregoing relationships are modeled in mediation. Different aspects of participation provide information about need and implementation, responsiveness is how the administrations uses the information, and perceived effectiveness is the general assessment of the welfare contribution. (Islam *et al.*, 2022) A positive indirect association would suggest that the participation–responsiveness association, and the responsiveness–effectiveness association contribute to an extra-association between participation and effectiveness (Tanvir *et al.*, 2023).

The participation coefficient can be present and the direct pathway included to explain part of the relationship without it's disappearance (Aktar *et al.*, 2024). This specification relates to the practical proposition that community involvement can be relevant as more than one route. It also enables to differentiate the indirect association from the overall association. Inferring the indirect effect based only on the significance of the separate paths is not a valid approach and is not measured directly (Hasan & Ara, 2022).

The fourth hypothesis is as follows: H4: There is a positive indirect relationship between community participation (CP) and perceived programme effectiveness (PP_Eff) mediated by perceived programme responsiveness (PP_Resp). The conceptual framework in Figure 1 illustrates the relationship between the four hypotheses. The model centers around the explanatory nature of responsiveness in a small, interrelated bundle of governance concepts (Muhammad Ahsan & Jahan, 2022).

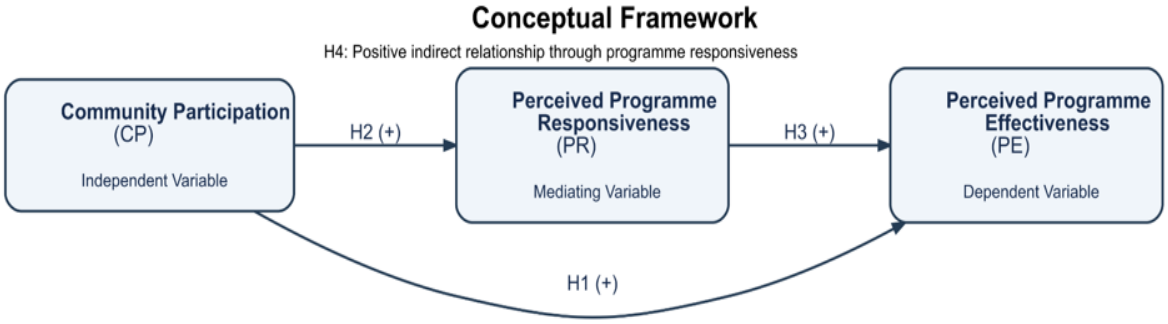


Figure 1: Conceptual framework

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Analytical Design and Data Basis

The study adopts quantitative, cross sectional questionnaire framework and artificial data of 320 response records, which are used as input for analytical modelling. The records are what the instrument describes as the response structure and are not necessarily field observations. Partial least squares structural equations modelling was employed to analyze the hypothesized links between community participation, perceived programme responsiveness and perceived programme effectiveness. The statistical results show the use of SEMinR version 2.6.0 as the software program used to estimate the parameters and 5,000 as the number of valid bootstrap samples (Braun *et al.*, 2021).

One response record refers to one local social welfare programme that was selected for analysis. The questionnaire guides people who have experience of a few programmes to select one programme that they have the most first-hand experience of and stick to

that programme throughout. It's reference time frame is the 12 months which have elapsed prior to the period of observation, or the period since becoming involved if less than 12 months. These design decisions make the programme profile, participation indicators, administrative evaluations, and indicators of effectiveness all in one substantive reference.

Eligibility and Questionnaire Design

The instrument prescribes conditions for voluntary consent, minimum age (18 years), nationality criteria (must be Bangladeshi), programme experience in the last 12 months, and adequate direct experience to evaluate implementation. Relevant experience is receiving assistance, applying for or renewing an application. The response structure thus caters for beneficiaries and applicants. All 320 cases met the criteria for inclusion in analytical records and were complete (Holtom *et al.*, 2022).

There are five substantive sections to the questionnaire. The first is related to consent and eligibility. The second is a records programme of demographic data and characteristics. The rest are related to community participation, perceived responsiveness, and perceived effectiveness. Assistance type, programme relationship, involvement duration, age, gender, education, employment, household income, household size, residence, division and personal participation are included in the profile section (Wang *et al.*, 2024). These variables characterize the analytical sample and do not represent other structural predictors.

Each of the three constructs is measured with 5 items. The scale is a 1 to 5; 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree with a neutral, 3, being in the middle. It also has a do not know option for statements that have not been experienced enough for a judgement to be made. This option distinguishes between information void and content neutrality. For the final dataset analyzed, the number of cases with complete valid item responses for each of the fifteen indicators is 320 and the reported model is based on these 320 cases.

Construct Operationalisation

Community involvement is expressed through having a meaningful voice in decisions, being actively engaged in discussions, having a role in priority setting, having input into reviewing operations and influencing improvements. These items are related to the perceived involvement of community members in the chosen programme. They are coded CP1-CP5 and considered as reflective items of the common participation construct.

Perceived programme responsiveness is reflected in timely response to concerns, taking appropriate action in response to reported problems, adapting delivery arrangements, using feedback to improve and providing extra support for those who need it to access programmes. These items (PR1-PR5) are programme authority issues. Programme effectiveness is indicated by: achieving the programme objectives, improving living conditions, responding to welfare needs targeted by the programme, alleviating hardship, and delivering the benefits intended. The codes assigned to these are PE1 to PE5 (Wu *et al.*, 2022).

Each item set is considered to be manifestations of its concept in the reflective specification. Thus, the focus of the evaluation is on indicator loadings, internal consistency, convergent validity, and discriminant validity. Substantive interpretations of structural coefficients are not attempted in the absence of a satisfactory measurement structure. This complement supports the separation of evidence of coherent measurement of constructs, and evidence relating to the postulated relationships between constructs.

Data Screening and Estimation

Screening was sequentialized using the process of eligibility assessment and item completion. 320 records were imported from the dataset, with no records excluded due to eligibility and no records excluded due to item response invalidity/missings. All records were kept in the final analysis. Identical response patterns were not automatically removed. The screening sequence is provided in Table 1 and the demographic and programme tables describe the retained data (Becker, 2022).

Both community participation and responsiveness are a part of the structural specification for predictors of effectiveness, while community participation is a predictor of responsiveness. The direct path of participation to effectiveness is a test of H1. The participation–responsiveness and responsiveness–effectiveness coefficients are used to test H2 and H3. Their product tests H4. The primary inference is based on two sided percentile Bootstrap 95% confidence intervals, which lie above a value of zero when the hypothesis is positive (Aithal & Aithal, 2020).

The 0.708 loading reference, internal consistency coefficients, and average variance extracted are used to evaluate measurement. The heterotrait–monotrait ratio is used to evaluate the discriminant validity, and a conservative point criterion of 0.85 is applied, and bootstrap intervals are checked separately. Inner variance inflation factors are used to measure the structural collinearity. Explained variance is measured by R^2 and adjusted R^2, and incremental contribution of each predictor using nested regressions on fixed estimated construct scores is measured by f^2.

Mediation and Predictive Assessment

The indirect relationship is determined by multiplying the participation–responsiveness coefficient and the responsiveness–effectiveness coefficient. The Bootstrap interval is directly calculated for it. The total relationship is the sum of the direct and indirect ones. But if they're both positive and supported, it's called a complementary mediation pattern. This terminology simply refers to a statistical decomposition of the relationships that are

stated; it isn't implying a temporal causal ordering of the cross sectional estimates.

The tenfold and tenrep cross validation are used to evaluate the prediction. These held out community participation items were the first of several antecedent items used in the design to predict indicators of responsiveness and effectiveness. There are 3,200 instances of prediction of each outcome indicator across repetitions (Braun *et al.*, 2021). Performance comparisons are made using Q^2 predict and predictions are made using the training mean, root mean square error and mean absolute error measure prediction error. Root mean squared error (RMSE) is also compared with benchmark of linear model with difference PLS minus linear model favoring the PLS.

Participation Information and Confidentiality

The participant information section of the questionnaire indicates that participation is voluntary and that the person may refuse or discontinue the questionnaire. Avoids names, National Identification Numbers, telephone numbers and beneficiary identification numbers. It also says that participation and answers do not impact eligibility for assistance. These are part of the instrument design and detail how a field application shall determine separation from research participation and administration. In the present analysis, no attempt has been made to ascribe recruitment activities, an institutional approval or field procedures to the synthetic records (Holtom *et al.*, 2022).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Screening and Analytical Sample

As seen in Table 1 all 320 imported records were maintained. By avoiding item missingness, a shared analysis foundation for measurement and structure assessments is provided. Thus, discrepancies in the percentages of the relationship categories are not due to varying numbers of cases on each construct. All items had a five point answer range and each indicator gave the entire set of records retained for the answer to the items for the descriptive analysis.

Table 1: Data screening and sample retention

Screening stage	Records
Initial imported records	320
Excluded: failed or missing eligibility	0
Eligible records	320
Excluded: missing or invalid item responses	0
Final complete records analysed	320
Missing item responses in final dataset	0

Table 2 shows a wide age distribution and household situation of the population represented in the data set. The largest age category is 35–44 years, representing 20.63%, followed by 45–54 years at 19.69%. 37.81% of the records are 55 years and older combined. Women represent 56.56%, men 40.63%, another identity 0.94%, and non disclosure 1.88%. This distribution is also pertinent to the proposed emphasis on accessible participation arrangements as the instrument has been designed to be suitable for a range of programme users. It is known that primary education with 32.19% is the largest category of education, while no formal

Table 2: Demographic profile

Variable	Category	n	%
Age group	18-24	25	7.81
	25-34	45	14.06
	35-44	66	20.63
	45-54	63	19.69
	55-64	60	18.75
	65 or above	61	19.06
Gender	Another identity	3	0.94
	Man	130	40.63
	Prefer not to answer	6	1.88
	Woman	181	56.56
Education	Bachelor or above	18	5.63
	Diploma or equivalent	14	4.38
	Higher secondary	39	12.19
	No formal schooling	71	22.19

	Other	4	1.25
	Primary	103	32.19
	Secondary	71	22.19
Employment	Agriculture, fisheries, or livestock work	65	20.31
	Daily wage or casual work	59	18.44
	Retired	38	11.88
	Salaried employment	23	7.19
	Self-employment or business	34	10.63
	Student	11	3.44
	Unable to work	17	5.31
	Unemployed and seeking work	19	5.94
	Unpaid household or caregiving work	54	16.88
Monthly household income	BDT 10,000-19,999	112	35.00
	BDT 20,000-29,999	60	18.75
	BDT 30,000-39,999	19	5.94
	BDT 40,000 or above	8	2.50
	Below BDT 10,000	108	33.75
	Do not know	4	1.25
	Prefer not to answer	9	2.81
Household size	1-2	38	11.88
	3-4	131	40.94
	5-6	110	34.38
	7 or more	41	12.81
Residence	Rural	231	72.19
	Urban	89	27.81
Division	Barishal	47	14.69
	Chattogram	37	11.56
	Dhaka	42	13.13
	Khulna	36	11.25
	Mymensingh	40	12.50
	Rajshahi	36	11.25
	Rangpur	48	15.00
	Sylhet	34	10.63

N = 320. Percentages may not total 100 because of rounding. BDT denotes Bangladeshi taka.

education and secondary education take their turn with 22.19% respectively. The employment profile shows that agriculture, fisheries or livestock work (20.31%) is the highest employment activity with daily wage or casual work (18.44%) and unpaid household/work and care work (16.88%) ranking second and third respectively. These categories can help provide context to the methods of communication and consultation arrangements. They make no distinction between model relationships for education or occupation groups, which were not tested (Follett & Henderson, 2022).

The number of household records with below BDT 20,000 income is 68.75%. The family size of three to four and five to six members is the most common family size of households, respectively 40.94% and 34.38%. The percentage of rural residence is 72.19% while urban residence is 27.81%. The profile shows all eight divisions. Each of these characteristics refers to the nature of the data collected in the modelling process and is intended as context data for the records and not as an estimate of the population of the programme users in Bangladesh.

Programme Experience and Personal Participation

Table 3 shows that the largest programme category is cash assistance (35.94%) and food assistance (24.06%) follows. Disability assistance (15.63%), education assistance (14.06%) and livelihood assistance (10.31%). The current beneficiaries account for 77.50% of the programme relationship profile. The percentages for former beneficiaries, those awaiting an outcome and unsuccessful applicants are 6.88%, 9.38% and 6.25%, respectively. This means that the questionnaire provides

programme evaluation with a benchmark beyond people directly receiving assistance (Sarker & Nawaz, 2021).

The most common amount of involvement is 1 to 2 years (30.94%) and 3 to 5 years (28.44%). Above 5 years accounts for 18.13%. 54.38% report they have personally participated in a programme meeting, consultation, feedback activity or discussion, 40.94% report that they have not had any personal involvement in a programme meeting, consultation, feedback activity or discussion, 4.69% report that they do not remember. The figures are for individual contact with participatory activities. They are separate from the five item construct that measures the perceived important role of community members in programme decisions.

Table 3: Programme experience and personal participation

Variable	Category	n	%
Assistance category	Cash assistance programme	115	35.94
	Disability assistance programme	50	15.63
	Education assistance programme	45	14.06
	Food assistance programme	77	24.06
	Livelihood assistance programme	33	10.31
Programme relationship	Applicant awaiting a decision	30	9.38
	Current beneficiary	248	77.50
	Former beneficiary in past 12 months	22	6.88
	Unsuccessful applicant	20	6.25
Involvement duration	1-2 years	99	30.94
	3-5 years	91	28.44
	6-11 months	42	13.13
	Less than 6 months	30	9.38
	More than 5 years	58	18.13
Personal participation	Do not remember	15	4.69
	No	131	40.94
	Yes	174	54.38

N = 320. Assistance category and assistance type have identical distributions and are presented once.

Descriptive Patterns of the Measurement Items

Table 4 shows descriptive statistics for all 15 indicators. Participation item is in the range of 3.063 – 3.275. CP3, priority identification, has the highest participation mean and CP4, review of programme operations has the lowest. The pattern indicates that the elements of meaningful participation can be evaluated separately although they are part of a collective construct. It adds

Table 4: Descriptive statistics of measurement items

Construct	Item	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
CP	CP1	320	3.188	1.157	1	5
CP	CP2	320	3.119	1.139	1	5
CP	CP3	320	3.275	1.150	1	5
CP	CP4	320	3.063	1.126	1	5
CP	CP5	320	3.172	1.155	1	5
PR	PR1	320	3.247	1.116	1	5
PR	PR2	320	3.384	1.144	1	5
PR	PR3	320	3.363	1.180	1	5
PR	PR4	320	3.300	1.163	1	5
PR	PR5	320	3.200	1.184	1	5
PE	PE1	320	3.231	1.165	1	5
PE	PE2	320	3.181	1.203	1	5
PE	PE3	320	3.303	1.158	1	5
PE	PE4	320	3.159	1.189	1	5
PE	PE5	320	3.400	1.178	1	5

Agreement scale from 1 strongly disagree to 5 strongly agree. CP = community participation; PR = perceived programme responsiveness; PE = perceived programme effectiveness.

a special dimension of importance to the difference between contributing to priorities and playing a role in the review of implementation (Al Qhuraissy, 2025).

Responsiveness: ranges between 3.200 and 3.384. Appropriate action on a reported problem (PR2) has the largest mean of this group, followed by adjustment of delivery arrangements (PR3). The mean responsiveness for support for those who need additional support to access services (PR5) is lowest. Effectiveness' with range 3.159 to 3.400, the hardship reduction (PE4) having the lowest mean and overall delivery of intended benefits (PE5) having the highest. These are descriptive differences but no differences between the item means tested separately.

Standard deviations vary from around 1.116 to 1.203, reflecting the variability around the averages. All items have a 5-point response scale 1-5. The means tend to be more towards the positive (above the neutral midpoint) but do not indicate that everyone thinks the same. Approximate mean of the 5 item means are around 3.163 for participation, 3.299 for responsiveness, and 3.255 for effectiveness. All summaries refer to the original agreement scale and not the standardised construct score which was used in the structural model (Aktar *et al.*, 2024).

Indicator Reliability and Construct Consistency

The outer loadings range from 0.783 to 0.855 as shown in Table 5. Participation loadings vary from 0.783 to 0.846, responsiveness loadings 0.812 to 0.842 and effectiveness loadings from 0.805 to 0.855. All of these are greater than the reference (0.708). Squared loadings vary between 0.613 and 0.732, meaning that each indicator accounts for over half of the variance of the construct with which it is modelled. Thus, all 15 items are considered part of the reported measurement structure.

The loading pattern is substantively useful as each construct relates to a number of aspects of the programme experience. Participation maintains items of voice and influence, discussion and review. Responsiveness encompasses promptness and adaptation, in addition to access needs. Effectiveness is carried over into general delivery judgments as well as welfare assessments. This

Table 5: Indicator reliability

Construct	Item	Loading	Squared loading
CP	CP1	0.822	0.675
CP	CP2	0.846	0.716
CP	CP3	0.783	0.613
CP	CP4	0.835	0.698
CP	CP5	0.809	0.654
PR	PR1	0.839	0.704
PR	PR2	0.842	0.709
PR	PR3	0.823	0.678
PR	PR4	0.833	0.694
PR	PR5	0.812	0.659
PE	PE1	0.810	0.656
PE	PE2	0.851	0.724
PE	PE3	0.805	0.648
PE	PE4	0.855	0.732
PE	PE5	0.847	0.718

means that the statistical performance justifies the content planned which does not restrict any construct to the highest loading items (Ahmad *et al.*, 2022).

Internal consistency and convergent validity are provided in Table 6. Participation has a Cronbach's alpha value of 0.877, responsiveness has a value of 0.887 and effectiveness has a value of 0.890. The corresponding rho A coefficients are 0.879, 0.888, and 0.891. Composite reliability is 0.911, 0.917, and 0.919. These results show consistent item sets, but not as high as 0.95, as high as that would make the researcher question whether items are redundant. The three measures offer a unified evaluation of reliability for the constructs.

Average variance extracted (AVE) is 0.671 for participation, 0.689 for responsiveness, and 0.696 for effectiveness. Both are > 0.50, indicating convergent validity. Substantively, the indicators used for each construct have sufficient variance and thus can be used to

Table 6: Internal consistency and convergent validity

Construct	Alpha	Rho A	Composite reliability	AVE
CP	0.877	0.879	0.911	0.671
PR	0.887	0.888	0.917	0.689
PE	0.890	0.891	0.919	0.696

AVE = average variance extracted.

represent a common evaluation. These loadings, reliability and average variance extracted scores are satisfactory to move on to construct comparisons and interpretations of the structural relationships (Tanvir *et al.*, 2023).

Discriminant Validity and Structural Collinearity

The heterotrait–monotrait ratios are respectively 0.553 for participation and responsiveness, 0.562 for participation and effectiveness, and 0.664 for responsiveness and effectiveness as shown in Table 7. All are less than the conservative point criterion of 0.85. The three bootstrap upper confidence limits are 0.646, 0.643 and 0.746 respectively. In these results, the intervals are kept below 1 and the value of 0.85. This helps to distinguish the constructs and recognise their positive conceptual relationships.

Responsiveness and effectiveness have the highest ratio and this makes sense given their close substantive relationship. Programme response to concerns can be used to inform a general assessment of welfare, but there is evidence in the measurement that administrative response and welfare contribution should be differentiated. This difference is crucial to the mediation analysis. The indirect relationship without it might be hard to understand as a relationship between two different concepts (Al Qhuraissy, 2025). This results, instead, in the proposed three construct representation.

As expected in an equation with only one predictor, the inner variance inflation factor associated with participation to predict responsiveness is 1.000 (Table 8). Both predictors of effectiveness have values of 1.315. These values suggest that there is no significant collinearity between the predictors (participation and responsiveness) when they are combined in the model under this reference value (3). The model is therefore able to model their separate association with effectiveness without a strong overlap in the information about the predictors represented by this diagnostic.

Table 7: Discriminant validity

Construct pair	HTMT	95% CI lower	95% CI upper
CP and PR	0.553	0.452	0.646
CP and PE	0.562	0.469	0.643
PR and PE	0.664	0.571	0.746

HTMT = heterotrait–monotrait ratio. CI = confidence interval.

Direct Relationships and Hypothesis Assessment

As predicted in H1, the results in Table 9 revealed that there was a positive direct relationship between community participation and perceived effectiveness. The coefficient = 0.274, and the Bootstrap standard err = 0.049, t statistic = 5.614. The 95% confidence interval extends from 0.177 to 0.369. In the standardised model, the difference between one standard deviation in participation is about 0.274 difference in one standard deviation in the effectiveness, while the responsiveness remains the same. This refers to the assumed correlation in the model.

Table 8: Structural collinearity

Predictor	Outcome	Inner VIF
CP	PR	1.000
CP	PE	1.315
PR	PE	1.315

The direct coefficient shows the association of participation with effectiveness beyond the responsiveness pathway. The outcome is aligned with the conceptual relevance of meaningful voice, priority identification and input to the review of operations. These issues of participation may be correlated with general judgements on whether or not a programme meets its goal. Note that the estimate does not specify which aspect of the participation is causing the relationship, as the direct path runs from the overall latent constructs of participation (Chowdhury & Islam, 2025).

The positive participation–responsiveness coefficient of 0.489 is a support of H2. The bootstrap standard error is 0.045, the t statistic is 10.797, and the confidence interval is 0.401–0.577. This is the direct effect of the model that is the biggest. The outcome shows the weight given within the framework to community voice as a source of information for community-based action. The records that are better as far as participation evaluation tend to be better in terms of responsiveness evaluation.

H3 is supported by the responsiveness–effectiveness coefficient of 0.458. The bootstrap standard error is 0.052, and t statistic is 8.812 and the confidence interval is 0.353 - 0.555. The conditional coefficient of effectiveness of responsiveness is greater than of participation. The administrative use of information has a substance here indicated by the comparison. Favourable judgements of authorities response to concerns are closely linked with favourable judgements of the welfare contribution within the model (Aktar *et al.*, 2024).

The three confidence intervals do not contain 0 in the positive direction. The approximate two sided p values

are <0.001 for all direct relationships. The values are calculated using the normal approximation using the bootstrap standard errors and the intervals are bootstrap percentile intervals. Considering the estimates together, constitutes evidence for the association pattern specified for the analytical dataset. Figure 2 shows the normalised coefficients and the proportion of explained variance of the estimated structural model.

Table 9: Direct relationships and hypothesis testing

H	Path	Beta	SE	t	95% CI	p
H1	CP → PE	0.274	0.049	5.614	0.177–0.369	< 0.001
H2	CP → PR	0.489	0.045	10.797	0.401–0.577	< 0.001
H3	PR → PE	0.458	0.052	8.812	0.353–0.555	< 0.001

All three hypotheses are supported. SE = bootstrap standard error. Percentile confidence intervals use 5,000 bootstrap samples; approximate p values use the normal approximation with bootstrap SE.

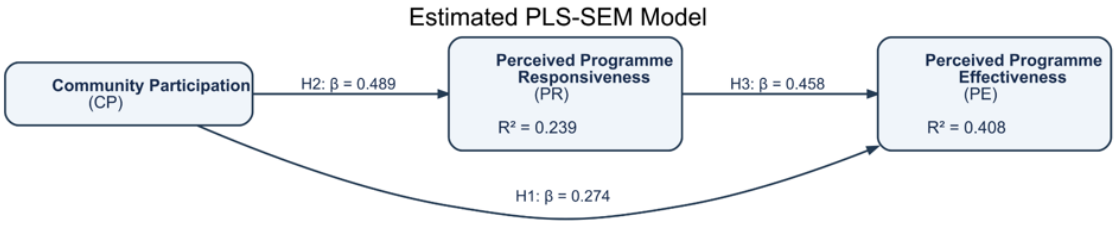


Figure 2: Estimated structural model

Explained Variance and Incremental Contributions

An R2 of 0.239 for responsiveness and 0.408 for effectiveness are reported in Table 10. Adjusted R^2 values are 0.237 and 0.404. So, about 23.9% of the variance in responsiveness scores can be explained by participation. The two components of Participation and Responsiveness explain about 40.8% of the total variance in the effectiveness score. This shows that the adjusted and unadjusted are close to each other due to the compact predictor specification as compared to 320 record analysis (Ferdous *et al.*, 2024).

The path estimates have an additional meaning, the explained variance. The participation–responsiveness coefficient is a standardised association whereas the responsiveness R2 is the percentage of variance explained by the equation. The effectiveness equation is the merging of the direct participation pathway with the responsiveness pathway (Goswami, 2024). It has a greater explained variance, which is in line with both constructs being included as predictors. These results refer to the explanation of the scores estimated on the analysed data-set and are evaluated in isolation to the held out prediction results.

Table 10: Explained variance

Outcome	R^2	Adjusted R^2	Predictors	N
PR	0.239	0.237	1	320
PE	0.408	0.404	2	320

Table 11 provides an f^2 of 0.315 for participation predicting responsiveness, which falls in the medium range, as stated above. The corresponding effectiveness contribution is 0.097, which is considered to be small. Responsiveness adds an f^2 of 0.269 to effectiveness (medium). The pattern of the effect size therefore fits that pattern of relative direct coefficients (also in the context of including both predictors): the incremental explanatory information provided by the responsiveness is greater than the information provided by the direct participation path (Muhammad Ahsan & Jahan, 2022).

These effect sizes are the result of nested regressions with estimated construct scores as controls. When the participation is eliminated from the effectiveness equation the R^2 decreases from 0.408 to 0.351. If responsivity is removed, it gets a score of 0.248. To make the practical meaning of incremental contribution within the context of the specified score based calculations clear. It allows for an emphasis on administrative responsiveness in drawing conclusions about the relationship between the participation framework and effectiveness.

Table 11: Incremental effect sizes

Path	R^2 included	R^2 excluded	f^2	Magnitude
CP → PR	0.239	0.000	0.315	Medium
CP → PE	0.408	0.351	0.097	Small
PR → PE	0.408	0.248	0.269	Medium

Nested regressions hold estimated construct scores fixed. Benchmarks are 0.02 small, 0.15 medium, and 0.35 large.

Mediation Through Programme Responsiveness

The indirect association of the participation–responsiveness – effectiveness pathway is reported in Table 12, which is at 0.224. The standard error of the bootstrap is 0.035, and its corresponding t is 6.385. This confidence interval is (0.158, 0.297) but not includes 0. Thus, H4 is accepted. The product of the participation–responsiveness and responsiveness–effectiveness coefficients, the indirect coefficient, offers a direct statistical evaluation of the proposed mediating pathway. The direct correlation continues to be positive and maintained at 0.274. Positive direct and indirect relationships are indicative of complementary mediation. This pattern suggests there may be a new pathway to effectiveness from participation that is just as important as the direct pathway to effectiveness from participation. It enables an understanding of community participation, both in the sense of the wider association with programme evaluation and in the sense of that of the response of programme authorities (Islam *et al.*, 2022).

The total association is 0.498, with a confidence interval of 0.416–0.575. The indirect coefficient is about 44.94% of this (0.224/0.498), with the estimates rounded. The ratio is a measure of the breakdown of the fit association. Not a money-in-money-out percentage of welfare benefits resulting from administrative action. The difference maintains the connotation of the result and yields insight into the fact that responsivity pathway is a significant part of the overall estimated relationship (M. Rahman *et al.*, 2023).

The mediation result is the conceptual model, from an administrative point of view. Consultation and review provides opportunities for communication of needs and responsive administration dictates the way in which needs are addressed. The positive indirect pathway is in keeping with the idea that these two elements should be part of the same evaluation model (Ferdous *et al.*, 2024). A participation arrangement may therefore be analyzed both in terms of the opportunities it provides for the residents and the visible after-effects of participation that programme authorities are looking for.

Table 12: Mediation analysis

Component	Estimate	95% CI	Assessment
Indirect CP → PR → PE	0.224	0.158–0.297	H4 supported
Direct CP → PE	0.274	0.177–0.369	Positive
Total CP → PE	0.498	0.416–0.575	Positive

Indirect SE = 0.035; t = 6.385; approximate p < 0.001. Complementary statistical mediation. Indirect share of the total association = 44.94%.

Predictive Relevance and Benchmark Comparison

The repeated cross validation results are shown in table 13. There are positive Q2-predict values for all 10 endogenous indicators. Responsiveness values range from 0.138 to 0.191 and the effectiveness values range from 0.153 to 0.181. These results shows less prediction errors than the training mean benchmark for all the predicted items. The only antecedent indicators that were kept in the structure of the analysis were the participation indicators that were involved in the procedure (Hossain & Habib, 2021).

Four out of five responsiveness indicators show that the PLS root mean squared errors is lower than the linear model benchmark. The exception is PR2 which differs by about 0.001 after rounding. PLS also has lower RMSE on all 5 indicators, showing its effectiveness. Medium predictive power for responsiveness and high for effectiveness vs. the linear benchmark have been recorded (M. Rahman, 2023). The purpose of these categories is to describe the nature of the pattern of benchmark comparisons, rather than the magnitude of prediction accuracy gains.

The numerical differences in terms of RMSE are relatively

Table 13: Repeated cross validation results

Item	Q^2 predict	PLS RMSE	LM RMSE	RMSE diff	PLS MAE	LM MAE
PR1	0.169	1.020	1.020	-0.0004	0.814	0.812
PR2	0.169	1.046	1.045	0.0006	0.852	0.845
PR3	0.139	1.097	1.110	-0.0130	0.907	0.921
PR4	0.191	1.047	1.055	-0.0074	0.865	0.865
PR5	0.138	1.101	1.108	-0.0069	0.897	0.897
PE1	0.153	1.074	1.084	-0.0102	0.892	0.902
PE2	0.181	1.091	1.097	-0.0063	0.897	0.907
PE3	0.165	1.060	1.071	-0.0104	0.880	0.891
PE4	0.176	1.081	1.091	-0.0092	0.900	0.908
PE5	0.169	1.076	1.082	-0.0067	0.886	0.892

Ten folds × ten repetitions; 3,200 prediction instances per item. Only held out CP items are prediction inputs. Negative RMSE differences favour PLS over the linear model LM. Benchmark classifications are medium for PR and high for PE. RMSE = root mean squared error; MAE = mean absolute error.

small and span from about −0.013–0.001 for each of the outcome items. The mean absolute error values are a second representation of the prediction error and do not necessarily rank all responsiveness indicators in the same way. Using activity reporting for both measures brings the predictive assessment to light. The results, along with positive Q^2 predict values, suggest that the model has predictive relevance in the repeated partitioning of this data set, and not 3,200 prediction instances as many as 3,200 independent individuals.

Integrated Interpretation for Welfare Governance

The structural findings have the community participation and programme responsiveness in one explanation of perceived effectiveness. Direct participation coefficient indicates that after responsiveness it is still important to have meaningful community involvement. The responsiveness response is the main additional pathway, as indicated by the indirect coefficient (Goswami, 2024). The concept of this joint pattern can be given a different administrative interpretation: participation makes it possible for needs to manifest themselves and responsiveness equates to what happens when needs are shared.

The relative coefficients also help to focus on what programme authorities do after consultation. A meeting can be used to discuss concerns, but programme users can check if concerns are acted upon appropriately (Fattah, 2024). Thus, responsiveness coefficient and its incremental effect size indicates the practical focus on follow up. Consultation process should involve a way of noting the issues raised, who is responsible and how the issues were considered.

This interpretation can be applied in practice in a number of areas highlighted in the item content. Involvement should be ongoing throughout implementation, as participation involves operational review and influence in improvement. Responsiveness indicates an ability to change in response to changing needs and would imply that authorities should consider whether delivery arrangements continue to be usable. Effectiveness must encompass hardship reduction, meaning programme assessments should inquire about hardship reduction as well as the administrative fulfilment of the transaction (Jahan, 2023).

The different profile information gives context to these design implications. There is significant rural representation and a diverse educational background, including older age groups and a range of employment. It is important to ensure that differences are addressed in an inclusive consultation design by providing accessible communication and scheduling (Asma *et al.*, 2023). The proposed practices are based on the need of the questionnaire to cover these aspects and the governance logic of the model. No separate structural coefficients are calculated for groups of demographics or for programme categories.

The model also promotes separation of "receiving feedback" and "responding to feedback." A programme might log the number of concerns received but not how they were dealt with. A better monitoring system would note the concern raised, the decision made, action taken and communication with the person raising the concern (Hasan & Ara, 2022). These records would enable the programme manager to do a direct review of responsiveness and to see this review in the context of a general review of welfare contribution.

The general interpretation is directed at perceived effectiveness. The outcome indicators are whether help is seen to meet the goals and alleviate suffering. They do not translate the structure coefficients into monetary welfare or change in household income. Such maintenance of the definition of the outcome is useful in making the policy discussion more precise. It highlights the programme experience assessed by the model and aids in ensuring that the proposed administrative improvements are related to the concepts contained within the instrument.

CONCLUSION

The analysis focused on community involvement, perceived programme responsiveness and perceived programme effectiveness in the one structure. In the 320 record modelling data set all four hypotheses were upheld. There was a positive direct relationship between participation and effectiveness, as well as a positive relationship between participation and responsiveness. Responsiveness was positively related with effectiveness and also positively indirectly related to participation and effectiveness. All measurement assessments provided support for reliability and empirical separation of the three constructs.

The significance of the main finding is that responsiveness is a valuable statistical correlation with positive programme evaluations and meaningful community involvement. It has direct mediation coefficient of 0.274 and indirect mediation coefficient of 0.224 leading to the total mediation coefficient of 0.498. The model was able to explain 40.8% of the variance in effectiveness scores. In addition the assessment of each endogenous indicator is carried out using positive predictive relevance. Based on the proposed analytical design, the results show the coherence of the governance relationships that have been proposed.

Community forum opportunities should be scheduled regularly for community members to review implementation and discuss priorities. Decisions should involve consultation with participants who are able to provide experience that is relevant to the activity or activities involved, and there should be explanations of the purpose of the consultation. Invitations and communications should be inclusive of individuals with varying education and service access/need backgrounds. This opportunity should include applicants as well as former beneficiaries where their first-hand experience is pertinent to the issue being considered.

Feedback should be established as a special duty of

administration. The programme manager needs to clearly define who to take concerns to, who will make decisions, and how the decision will be communicated. It would be helpful to have a record of the issue/concern and the response it received, to facilitate continuity when it needs more than one member of staff to follow up. It is also important for authorities to differentiate between the act of acknowledging a concern and taking action to resolve it; to that end, a recorded response should be representative of what happened after receiving the concern. Appropriate action and use of feedback are a direct consequence of the emphasis placed on these in the model.

Participation arrangements should include a review of proposed improvements and the decisions reached. If a suggestion results in an adjustment to deliveries, the community needs to be told, and when another response may be appropriate. Explanations should be in a language and communication channel that the intended users can access. To fill this communication loop with flesh and blood, and to make meaningful the connection between meaningful voice and responsive administration reflected in the conceptual artwork, would be advantageous.

The monitoring of the programme should evaluate participation, responsiveness and effectiveness as three aspects of one process. The influence and operational review measurements should include in the participation measurement, action and adaptation measurements should include in the responsiveness measurement, intended welfare contribution measurement should include in the effectiveness measurement. If the teacher did not record attendance, or distribution, these evaluative dimensions would remain unspecified. The fifteen-item structure provides a consistent framework to organise such assessments and also provides a common programme reference in each of the completed questionnaire forms.

Special attention to those needing extra help accessing services should be given in implementation reviews. Evaluation of consultation formats, service instructions and arrangements for raising concerns must be undertaken for their usability. There should be a clear pathway for programme staff to make adjustments when the identified access need is not being achieved through the standard arrangement. These actions reflect the responsiveness construct and give the administrators a focus to work with if they need to improve while not setting aside all forms of assistance as operationally equal.

The study introduces an analytical framework of participation and local government of welfare in Bangladesh. The key practical tenet is meaningful involvement needs to be linked with administrative response, and with the expected welfare benefit of the chosen programme. This can enable the programme manager to look at a clear set of relationships and a logical framework for enhancing consultation and feedback management and service review.

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