



ANALYSIS OF THE VILAGE FUNDS IN PROVIDING VILAGE COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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ABSTRACT

The Village Fund is one of the government's policy instruments that aims to accelerate village development, especially in the provision of facilities and infrastructure for village communities. The development of adequate village infrastructure is expected to be able to increase access to public services and encourage the welfare of village communities. And what happens in its implementation, the use of Village Funds still faces various challenges that have the potential to reduce the effectiveness of achieving these goals. This research aims to analyze the role of Village Funds in providing facilities and infrastructure for village communities. This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study method. The data collection technique was carried out through in-depth interviews with village officials, community leaders, and villagers, as well as field observations and documentation studies on planning documents and reports on the realization of the Village Fund. Data analysis is carried out in the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. The results of the study show that the Village Fund plays an important role in increasing the availability and accessibility of village facilities and infrastructure, such as village roads, clean water facilities, sanitation, and other public facilities. Infrastructure development funded through the Village Fund generally provides direct benefits to the community, especially in supporting economic and social activities. However, the effectiveness of the use of Village Funds is still influenced by the limited capacity of village officials, the quality of development planning, and the implementation of the principles of transparency and community participation.

Keywords: Village Funds, Village Infrastructure, Community Welfare, Apparatus Capacity, Transparency.

BACKGROUND OF THE ISSUE

Village development is one of the main pillars in an effort to realize equitable development and improve community welfare. Villages not only play a role as the lowest administrative unit of government, but also as a center of social, economic, and cultural activities of the community. Therefore, the provision of adequate village facilities and infrastructure is a fundamental need to support the improvement of the quality of life of village communities and encourage local economic growth.

Ince the enactment of the Village Fund policy, the government has given considerable authority and budget allocation to the village government to finance community development and



empowerment. The Village Fund is expected to be able to accelerate the provision of public facilities and village infrastructure, such as village roads, clean water facilities, sanitation, health facilities, education, and community economic support facilities. With proper management, the Village Fund can be a strategic instrument in reducing the development gap between rural and urban areas.

However, in practice, the use of Village Funds for the provision of village facilities and infrastructure still faces various problems. Some villages have not been able to manage the Village Fund optimally due to the limited capacity of village officials' human resources, weak development planning, and ineffective supervision and evaluation systems. As a result, the development of village facilities and infrastructure produced has not been fully in accordance with the needs of the community or has not had a significant impact on improving welfare.

In addition, there are indications that the priority of using Village Funds still tends to focus on physical development alone without considering aspects of sustainability and the quality of development results. Infrastructure that is built often faces maintenance problems, low construction quality, and lack of community participation in the planning and implementation process. This condition has the potential to reduce the effectiveness of the Village Fund in the long term.

On the other hand, transparency and accountability in the management of Village Funds are also important issues. Lack of information disclosure and weak internal control mechanisms can pose a risk of inefficiency and budget abuse. This shows that the success of the Village Fund is not only determined by the amount of budget allocation, but also by the quality of its governance and implementation process.

Based on these conditions, a comprehensive analysis is needed regarding the management of Village Funds in the provision of village facilities and infrastructure. This analysis is important to assess the extent to which the Village Fund has been used effectively, efficiently, and on target in meeting the needs of the village community. The results of the research are expected to provide recommendations for the village government and related stakeholders to improve the quality of planning, implementation, and supervision of the Village Fund, so that the goals of village development can be achieved in a sustainable manner.



THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

1. Theory of Public Finance

The Theory of Public Finance is a branch of economics that discusses the role of the government in the economy, especially related to the management of state revenues and expenditures to achieve public welfare. This theory emphasizes that market mechanisms are not always able to provide public goods and services optimally, so government intervention is a must. According to Musgrave (1959), public finance focuses on how governments:

- a. Allocate resources,
- b. Distributing revenue,
- c. Maintaining economic stability.

This theory is the conceptual basis for why the government allocates public budgets, including the Village Fund, for the provision of community facilities and infrastructure.

2. Fiscal Decentralization Theory

Fiscal Decentralization Theory is a theory that explains the delegation of fiscal authority from the central government to local governments so that the provision of public services becomes more effective, efficient, and in accordance with the needs of local communities.

Fiscal decentralization includes regional authority in:

- a. Managing revenue,
- b. Allocating public spending,
- c. Making development decisions according to the characteristics of the area.

According to Oates (1972), fiscal decentralization will increase the efficiency of public resource allocation because local governments have better information about the preferences and needs of their people than the central government.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research is a qualitative data type research by taking secondary data regarding literature and primary data in the form of interviews and documentation at the research location.

Research and Discussion Results

1. The Role of Village Funds in the Development of Village Facilities and Infrastructure



The Village Fund is a fiscal policy instrument designed to strengthen village development through improving the quality of village community facilities and infrastructure. Village infrastructure such as environmental roads, small bridges, clean water facilities, sanitation, health facilities, education, and community economic facilities are basic needs that determine the quality of life and productivity of village communities.

The main role of the Village Fund in this context is as a source of public funding that allows the village government to carry out infrastructure development that was previously difficult to realize due to the limitations of the village budget. With the Village Fund, villages have a more adequate fiscal capacity to meet the needs of local public facilities and the benefits are directly felt by the community. One of the strategic roles of the Village Fund is to increase the access of village communities to public services. Adequate infrastructure contributes to: Increased community mobility and distribution of economic outcomes, Better access to health services and education, Increased local economic activity. The development of facilities and infrastructure through the Village Fund also plays a role in reducing the gap between regions, especially between villages and cities. Village infrastructure that was previously left behind can be improved so that village communities get relatively equal opportunities to access basic services.

The effectiveness of the role of the Village Fund can be analyzed from several main aspects, namely:

a. Conformity with Community Needs

Village funds are considered effective if the facilities and infrastructure built are in accordance with the real needs of the village community. This is greatly influenced by the quality of village development planning, especially through village deliberations that actively involve the community.

b. Quality and Sustainability of Infrastructure

In addition to the quantity of development, the quality of infrastructure results is an important indicator. Infrastructure built through the Village Fund often faces challenges in the form of low construction quality and lack of maintenance, so the long-term benefits are limited.

c. Impact on Community Welfare



The role of the Village Fund is not only measured by the availability of physical infrastructure, but also by its impact on community welfare, such as increasing income, employment opportunities, and quality of life.

Although the Village Fund has a significant role, its implementation still faces various challenges, including: Limited capacity of human resources of village apparatus, Weak planning and supervision, Lack of transparency and accountability in fund management, Low community participation in the development process.

2. The Role of Governance and Community Participation

The success of the Village Fund is highly determined by the quality of village governance. Transparency, accountability, and community participation are key factors in ensuring that the Village Fund is used in a targeted manner.

Community participation in the planning, implementation, and supervision of infrastructure development will increase: The accuracy of the selection of types of facilities, the quality of development implementation, the sense of community ownership of development results.

Thus, the Village Fund not only functions as a financing tool, but also as a means of empowering the village community. Overall, the Village Fund has a very important role in providing facilities and infrastructure for the village community. Village funds contribute to increasing access to public services, reducing development gaps, and improving the welfare of village communities. However, the effectiveness of this role is highly dependent on the quality of planning, governance, capacity of village apparatus, and community participation.

Therefore, the analysis of the role of the Village Fund needs to focus not only on the amount of fund allocation and the amount of infrastructure built, but also on the management process and the real impact of development on the lives of the village community.

CONCLUSION

The Village Fund has a strategic role in providing facilities and infrastructure for the village community as part of efforts to equitably distribute development and improve community welfare. Through the allocation of the Village Fund, the village government has a more adequate fiscal capacity to build and improve basic infrastructure such as village roads, clean



water facilities, sanitation, health facilities, education, and supporting facilities for community economic activities.

The results of the analysis show that the Village Fund contributes positively to increasing the access of village communities to public services and encouraging social and economic activities at the local level. The development of village facilities and infrastructure funded through the Village Fund generally provides direct benefits to the community, especially in improving mobility, productivity, and quality of life.

However, the effectiveness of the role of the Village Fund has not been fully optimal. Various obstacles are still found, including the limited capacity of village officials' human resources, weak planning and supervision, and the application of the principles of transparency and accountability has not been maximized. In addition, infrastructure development still tends to be oriented to physical aspects without being balanced with adequate attention to quality, sustainability, and maintenance.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the results of the analysis of the role of the Village Fund in providing facilities and infrastructure for the village community, the suggestions that can be submitted are as follows:

1. For the Village Government

The village government is advised to improve the quality of development planning through village deliberations that are more participatory and based on the real needs of the community. In addition, strengthening the capacity of village apparatus in financial management, development planning, and supervision of infrastructure projects needs to be continued so that the use of Village Funds is more effective, efficient, and on target.

2. For Regional Governments and Central Governments

The local government and the central government are expected to strengthen the function of coaching and supervising the management of the Village Fund, especially in the provision of village facilities and infrastructure. The preparation of clearer technical guidelines, ongoing mentoring, and improvement of internal control systems are needed to minimize the risk of inefficiencies and budget abuse.

3. For the Village Community



Village communities are advised to play an active role in all stages of Village Fund management, starting from planning, implementation, to development supervision. Community participation not only increases transparency and accountability, but also encourages the creation of village facilities and infrastructure that are more in line with needs and sustainable.

4. Share Other Research

Further research is suggested to examine the role of Village Funds using broader approaches and variables, such as the quality of village governance, community participation, and infrastructure sustainability. In addition, the use of quantitative methods or comparative approaches between villages and between regions can provide a more comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of the Village Fund in the long term.

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