



The Influence of Accountability, Transparency and Community Participation on the Effectiveness of Cibungur Tasikmalaya Village Fund Management

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Abstract

This research investigates the influence of accountability, transparency, and community participation on the effectiveness of village fund management. This research was conducted in Cibungur, Parungponteng Subdistrict, Tasikmalaya Regency, the study adopts a quantitative approach, employing an associational research design with a sample of 100 households. Through multiple linear regression, the analysis reveals significant insights. The results indicate that accountability, transparency, and community participation individually and collectively impact the effectiveness of village fund management. Accountability exhibits a positive influence (t-value = 2.787, p-value = 0.001), as does transparency (t-value = 3.444, p-value = 0.001), while community participation also demonstrates a significant effect (t-value = -3.099, p-value = 0.003). The coefficient of determination (R^2) indicates that 62.5% of the variance in village fund management effectiveness can be explained by these variables. The F-test reinforces the joint influence of transparency, accountability, and community participation, with a significant F-value of 53.392 and a p-value of 0.001. This study underscores the intricate dynamics between governance principles and community involvement for optimal village fund utilization, contributing to sustainable development and community welfare. Thus, this research not only fills knowledge gaps, but also provides a holistic view of efforts towards sustainable development and community welfare through optimizing village fund management.

Keywords: Village fund management, accountability, transparency, community participation

1. Introduction

The development of public sector accounting, especially in Indonesia, has experienced rapid progress in line with the emergence of the reform era in the implementation of government policies. This era was marked by efforts to strengthen regional autonomy and fiscal decentralization, which emphasized regional government as the center for implementing public policy. Increasing the independence of regional governments is an important key in facing the challenges of globalization which demands competitiveness in every country.

In this context, the Indonesian government implemented various reform policies, one of which was the ratification of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages. This step marks the beginning of implementing village authority and creating financial instruments such as Village Funds, which are sourced from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBN). Village Funds are a concrete form of state recognition of the original rights and local authority of villages, with the aim of providing additional energy for village development and empowerment. Even though the Village Law provides a legal basis for the implementation of Village Funds, there are still various problems faced in its management. In terms of accountability, transparency and government independence, further understanding is still needed about the extent to which these factors influence the management of Village Funds in Indonesia.

Several previous studies have confirmed that accountability, transparency and community participation have a significant role in increasing the effectiveness of village fund management (Rahmanurrasjid, 2008; Mardiasmo, 2009). Accountability and transparency are the main keys to ensuring that village funds are used on target and avoid potential irregularities. Meanwhile, community participation is considered essential so that the community can directly monitor and control the use of village funds (Diana, 2013; Sutoro, 2014).

Village fund allocation itself is an integral part of the financial budget provided by the government to villages, sourced from regional tax revenue sharing and central and regional financial balance funds received by the district. Government Regulation no. 22 of 2015 Article 29 emphasizes that the distribution formula is calculated based on the number of villages, with a weight of 90 percent and only 10 percent is calculated using the formula for population, poverty rate, area area and level of geographic difficulty.

The importance of Good Governance principles, such as accountability, transparency and participation in the management of Village Funds, is the basis for ensuring that village officials act in accordance with applicable ethics and legal regulations. These principles impose obligations on parties holding mandates or interested parties to manage Public Resources responsibly (Tulis et al., 2018). In the context of government accounting, its role goes beyond central and regional financial management, including villages as government organizational units that have a very important role in interacting directly with the community. Principles such as transparency and accountability in public financial management are not only the responsibility of the central government, but must also be implemented by the regions, including the village level (Iqbal, 2022).

Transparency is defined as the provision of public services that are open, easily accessible to all parties who need them, and presented adequately and understandably. A government is said to be transparent when the principle of openness allows the public to know and gain access to the widest possible information regarding village finances. Meanwhile, community participation is a concrete form of the desire to develop democracy through a decentralization process, which involves the community in planning and developing their community (Effendi, 2020).

Even though regulations regarding village fund management already exist, practice in the field still faces serious challenges, especially in overcoming potential irregularities. Lack of understanding by village officials and the community regarding the rules for using village funds is one of the contributing factors to this problem. Therefore, increasing accountability and transparency not only needs to be considered in regulations, but also in their implementation in the field. On the other hand, the low level of community participation in managing village funds is an important concern. Social control by the community is considered one of the main pillars of good village governance (Sutoro, 2014). However, this low level of participation is caused by a lack of outreach and education to village communities regarding their rights and obligations in monitoring the use of village funds.

The government has issued policies regarding the implementation of village funds, with Law No. 6 of 2014 and PP No. 60 of 2014 as the legal basis. These two regulations emphasize that village funds are expected to improve welfare and equitable village development through improving public services, advancing the village economy, overcoming development gaps between villages, and strengthening the role of village communities as development subjects. Village development priorities include aspects of infrastructure development, such as village roads, as well as community empowerment, for example through support for village small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The allocation of village funds in Cibungur in 2022 shows the government's commitment to achieving this goal, with a number of budgets allocated for various development and community empowerment sectors.

However, initial research shows that there are obstacles in managing village funds, including a lack of transparency from the village government, the community's lack of understanding about village funds, as well as problems in infrastructure development and community empowerment. Apart from that, the phenomenon of managing village funds that is not in accordance with the principles of Good Governance is also the focus of research. Thus, this research aims to more deeply understand the influence of accountability, transparency and community participation on the effectiveness of village fund management in Cibungur, with the hope that the research results can contribute to improving the quality of village fund management and empowering village communities in a more holistic manner.

2. Materials and Methods

This research adopts a quantitative approach, with the type of research classified as associative research. Associative research aims to observe the relationship between two or more variables. The population that is the focus of this research is all heads of families in Cibungur, Parungponteng District, Tasikmalaya Regency, totaling 2079 heads of families. For research purposes, samples were taken using the Slovin formula, which resulted in a sample size of 100 people.

The data analysis method used in this research is the multiple linear regression test. The multiple linear regression test is used to analyze the simultaneous relationship between two or more independent variables and one dependent variable. Through this analysis, the research seeks to understand the extent to which accountability, transparency and community participation influence the effectiveness of village fund management in Cibungur, Parungponteng District.

This research process will involve collecting quantitative data from respondents who are heads of families in Cibungur. The research instrument used can be a questionnaire or structured interview designed to measure the variables involved. After the data is collected, multiple linear regression analysis will be carried out to identify and measure the extent to which these variables are interconnected and influential in the context of village fund management.

3. Results and Discussion

Multiple linear regression analysis was conducted to evaluate the influence of the variables of accountability, transparency, and community participation on the effectiveness of village fund management in Cibungur. The results of this analysis are presented in Table 1:

Table 1: Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients			
	B	Std. Error	T	Sig.
Constant	3.018	0.872	3.462	0.001
Accountability	-0.413	0.148	2.787	0.006
Transparency	0.546	0.158	3.444	0.001
Community Participation	0.630	0.203	3.099	0.003

a) Dependent Variable: Village Fund Management

From Table 1, the regression model is obtained as follows:

$$Y = 3.018 + (-0.413X_1) + (0.546X_2) + (0.630X_3) \quad Y=3.018+ (-0.413X_1) + (0.546X_2) + (0.630X_3)$$

An explanation of the regression model is as follows: a. The constant (β_0) is 3.018, indicating that when the variables of accountability, transparency, and community participation are assumed to be zero (0), the village fund management will be 3.018.

- b) The coefficient of transparency (β_1) is -0.413, signifying that each 1 percent increase in transparency will result in a decrease of 41.3% in village fund management, assuming other independent variables are constant.
- c) The coefficient of accountability (β_2) is 0.546, meaning that each 1 percent increase in accountability will result in an increase of 54.6% in village fund management, assuming other independent variables are constant.
- d) The coefficient of community participation (β_3) is 0.630, indicating that each 1 percent increase in community participation will lead to a 63.0% increase in village fund management, assuming other independent variables are constant.

Thus, the results of the regression analysis indicate that all three independent variables (accountability, transparency, and community participation) significantly influence village fund management in Cibungur. However, it is noteworthy that transparency has a negative relationship, meaning an increase in transparency may lead to a decrease in village fund management.

Based on the t-test results in Table 1, it is evident that all three independent variables, namely accountability, transparency, and community participation, have a significant influence on village fund management. The calculated t-value is 3.462, which is greater than the critical t-table value of 1.984, and the p-value is 0.001 with a confidence level of 95% ($\alpha = 0.05$).

Table 2: Coefficient of Determination Test (R^2)

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.791	0.625	0.614	1.259

From Table 2, it is known that the R-square coefficient is 0.625, indicating that 62.5% of the variance in village fund management can be explained by changes in the variables of accountability, transparency, and community participation. The remaining 37.5% is explained by other factors beyond the research variables affecting village fund management.

Table 3: F-Test

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	F	Sig.
1	Regression	254.080	3	53.392
-	Residual	152.280	96	-
-	Total	406.360	99	-

Based on the results of the F-test in Table 3, the calculated F-value is 53.392, which is greater than the critical F-table value of 2.70, with a significant value of 0.003. The probability value (0.003) is less than 0.05, indicating that simultaneously, the variables of transparency (X_1), accountability (X_2), and community participation (X_3) have a positive and significant influence on village fund management (Y) with SPSS version 20. Therefore, it can be concluded that the hypothesis (H_a) is accepted, and the null hypothesis (H_o) is rejected, implying that accountability, transparency, and community participation have an impact on the effectiveness of village fund management.

Based on the results of the multiple linear regression analysis, the constant term (a) of 3.018 indicates that when accountability, transparency, and community participation are assumed to be zero, village fund management is at 30.18%. The regression coefficient of accountability (-0.413) implies that a 100% increase in accountability will lead to a 41.3% increase in village fund management, assuming other independent variables are constant. Similarly, the coefficient of transparency (0.546) suggests that a 100% increase in transparency will result in a 54.6% increase in village fund management, assuming other independent variables are constant. The regression coefficient of community participation (0.630) means that a 100% increase in community participation will lead to a 63.0% increase in village fund management, assuming other independent variables are constant.

Furthermore, based on the t-test results, the calculated t-value (3.462) is greater than the critical t-table value (1.984), with a p-value of 0.001. According to the t-test criteria, it can be concluded that the t-value is higher than the t-table value, leading to the acceptance of the research hypothesis. In other words, there is an influence of accountability, transparency, and community participation on the effectiveness of village fund management.

Moreover, the F-test result shows that the calculated F-value (53.392) is greater than the critical F-table value, with a significant value of 0.001. The probability value (0.001) is less than 0.05, indicating that simultaneously, the variables of transparency (X1), accountability (X2), and community participation (X3) have a positive and significant influence on village fund management (Y) with SPSS version 20. Therefore, the research hypothesis (Ha) is accepted, and the null hypothesis (Ho) is rejected.

3.1. The Influence of Accountability on the Effectiveness of Village Fund Management

Based on the results of the t-test, it is observed that the calculated t-value (2.787) exceeds the critical t-table value (1.984), with a p-value of 0.001. Therefore, it can be concluded that the calculated t-value is greater than the t-table value, leading to the acceptance of the research hypothesis. In other words, there is an influence of accountability on the effectiveness of village fund management.

The findings of this study align with research conducted by Setyorini (2021), suggesting that the overall management of village funds can be considered accountable. However, improvements are still needed, such as enhancing the utilization of the SisKeuDes application. The village government also appears to implement open government practices, allowing the public significant access to information about village funds and the types of activities being carried out.

Bureaucratic accountability in implementing programs for the benefit of the community is an indisputable obligation. The community, as the target group of a program, consistently demands transparency and accountability in the budgeting process (Carlitz, 2013). In the context of accountability in village fund management, it can be interpreted as the village head's obligation to be accountable for the management of entrusted village funds. This is crucial for achieving the set goals, and it involves periodic accountability through various reporting mechanisms.

The acknowledgment of accountability in village fund management reflects the commitment of the village government to transparency and responsible financial stewardship. Open government practices contribute to fostering public trust by providing extensive access to information about village funds and activities, as observed in the studied case of cibungur, parungponteng Subdistrict, Tasikmalaya District.

3.2. The Influence of Transparency on the Effectiveness of Village Fund Management

According to the t-test results, the calculated t-value (3.444) is higher than the critical t-table value (1.984), with a p-value of 0.001. Based on the t-test criteria, it can be concluded that the calculated t-value is greater than the t-table value, indicating that there is an influence of community transparency on the effectiveness of village fund management.

These research findings are consistent with the study conducted by (Morowane, 2022), which suggests that participation and transparency are two sides of the same coin. When the community is involved (participates), the principle of transparency is automatically fulfilled. The success of a development program can only be effective when all stakeholders participate, starting from program planning to monitoring and program evaluation. Another crucial aspect is competence because one prerequisite for participation is having the competence to carry out the tasks.

The lack of transparency significantly affects administration. Transparency expands the responsibilities of strategy makers, ensuring that open command over the specialist crafting of regulations will be successful. Transparency can be interpreted as regulations that allow the general public to have comprehensive access to data about territorial funds. In essence, it guarantees access or opportunities for everyone to obtain data about government organizations, especially data about the regulatory cycle, implementation, and achieved results (Attard et al., 2015).

3.3. The Influence of Community Participation on the Effectiveness of Village Fund Management

Based on the t-test results from the table above, it is known that the calculated t-value is -3.099, and the t-table value is 1.984, with a p-value of 0.003. According to the t-test criteria, it can be concluded that the calculated t-value is greater (3.099) than the t-table value (1.984), indicating that there is an influence of community participation on the effectiveness of village fund management.

The research findings align with the study conducted by (Morowane, 2022), stating that the success of a development program heavily depends on community participation. To enhance community participation, the village government needs to build social capital within the community, including fostering trust through responsible, fair, and transparent implementation of development programs, preventing community apathy. As trust in the development implementers grows, the community will naturally be motivated to participate and contribute to the success of the development program.

According to Dudayev et al. (2023), the level of participation in the planning stage involves the community's involvement in village development planning meetings using village funds, evaluated by attendance, active participation, and control in decision-making. The decision-making process in village development planning using village funds should begin with socialization, attending development planning deliberations. Decisions for development planning should prioritize the most significant needs identified by the community. This prioritization comes from various proposals submitted by the community, resulting in a development plan that participants consider urgent and essential. To ensure the prioritization of development plans, it is essential not only to consider proposals from stakeholders but also to include suggestions from all community members through discussions that lead to prioritized planning decisions.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, this research delved into the pivotal aspects of accountability, transparency, and community participation in influencing the effectiveness of village fund management. Drawing on a quantitative approach and associational research design, the study encompassed 100 households in Cibungur, Parungponteng Subdistrict, Tasikmalaya Regency. The analysis, performed through multiple linear regression, revealed compelling insights.

- a). Accountability's Impact: The research evidenced that accountability significantly affects the effectiveness of village fund management. As indicated by the t-test results (t-value = 2.787, p-value = 0.001), heightened accountability leads to a noteworthy increase in the management of village funds.
- b). Transparency's Significance: The findings underscore the crucial role of transparency in the effectiveness of village fund management. The calculated t-value of 3.444, surpassing the t-table value (1.984) with a p-value of 0.001, affirms that increased transparency correlates with more effective management of village funds.
- c). Community Participation's Influence: The research substantiates that community participation significantly contributes to the effectiveness of village fund management. With a t-value of -3.099 and a p-value of 0.003, the analysis indicates that heightened community participation positively impacts the management of village funds.

The collective impact of these variables was further validated through the coefficient of determination (R^2), which revealed that 62.5% of the variance in village fund management effectiveness can be explained by accountability, transparency, and community participation. The remaining 37.5% is attributed to other external factors beyond the study's scope.

The F-test results underscore the joint influence of transparency, accountability, and community participation. With an F-value of 53.392 and a significant p-value of 0.001, the research concludes that these variables collectively have a positive and significant impact on village fund management.

In essence, this study illuminates the intricate dynamics between accountability, transparency, community participation, and the effectiveness of village fund management. The findings underscore the need for robust governance principles and community involvement to ensure the optimal utilization of village funds, fostering sustainable development and community welfare.

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