

## **Study of Analysis and Evaluation of Village Fund Policy in Soppeng District**

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### **Abstract:**

**Background:** This study aims to analyze and evaluate the existing Village Fund policies in Soppeng Regency. The focus of this research was carried out in six villages based on the current village status (2 underdeveloped villages, 2 developing villages and 2 advanced villages). This type of qualitative research used descriptive method with a phenomenological approach. The focus was analyze the extent to which Village Fund was applied to know the determinant factors that affect, and to explain the contribution of the Village Fund program in realizing independence. The results of the study showed that the implementation of Village Fund in Soppeng Regency is dominant by programs and activities in the Development Sector rather than in the Community Empowerment Sector, there is a consensus. Implementation of the empowerment sector program between Villages with developing and advanced status, and Villages with underdeveloped status. Then the Village Government has not yet optimized the application of the Priority Principles in determining Programs and Activities, especially the Principles of Self-Management and Resource Based. The determinant factors that affect the Village Fund in its implementation, namely the factors of bureaucratic structure, socio-cultural factors, and geographic location factors, as well as the contribution of the Village Fund Program carried out in Soppeng district is very large, but Village Fund has not been able to complete all the basic needs in the village until now this, as measured by the adequacy indicator in the Dunn Evaluation.

**Key Word:** Village Fund Policy, Village Fund Analysis and Village Fund Evaluation.

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Date of Submission: 26-12-2020

Date of Acceptance: 07-01-2021

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Village independence is a condition that is often dreamed of by all villages in Indonesia, independence is very closely related to the success of the village being able to manage all the resources in the village, the existence of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages provides new hope for villages to manage village authority directly in realizing its independence, this also changes the old paradigm of the village where the village used to be the object of development, while now as the subject of development. The birth of this Village Law has consequences for the State, which is obliged to support the implementation of the Law; therefore, the government issues a Village Fund policy as a supporting derivative regulation in the Building Village Paradigm.

The Village Fund is a public policy taken by the government on a choice of needs in solving a problem. As stated (Dye 1981) which explains the meaning of public is whatever Government choose to do or not to do. Public policy as a policy set by government agencies and officials and must be in accordance with the needs and oriented as a multimethod, multi-disciplinary that focuses on problems (problem focused) (Anderson 1979) and (Parson 2005).

The Village Fund Policy as outlined in Government Regulation Number 60 Year 2014 is the government's strategy in accelerating development in Indonesia starting from villages. The essence of this policy is a new source of income for the Village that is received which is charged through the State Budget or APBN, which is very large in number received by each Village in accordance with the provisions that have been measured, therefore the existence of the Village Fund is a new spirit for The village in the acceleration of independence is expected to be able to improve the welfare of the village community, improve the quality of life of the community and as poverty alleviation in the village as the goal of the policy.

The Village Fund has been implemented for the last 5 (five) years. According to (Mardiasmo 2018) nationally, the Village Fund is considered capable of achieving policy goals. The success is assessed in terms of increasing economic growth in districts / cities each year, the number of open unemployment in the district / city decreases. Decreased poverty and success based on Village development status. However, what happened in Soppeng Regency, the implementation of Village Fund was not optimal in contributing to this policy, where

during the last 5 years the economic growth rate was very slow, the reduction in the poverty rate was very low, the increase in the human development index was below the average of the Sulawesi Province index. South and the open unemployment rate is getting higher, and there are still villages that are underdeveloped in the Soppeng district.

The results of the Village Fund achievements so far should be able to contribute to the independence of the Village itself. Therefore, a policy evaluation is needed to assess the extent to which Village Fund has been implemented in Soppeng Regency so far. According to (Subarsono 2005) Policy Evaluation is an activity to assess the level of performance of a policy. A new evaluation can be carried out if a policy has been running for enough time. Given that the Village Fund in Soppeng Regency has been implemented for 5 years, it is very necessary to be evaluated to provide an overview of the success or failure of the implementation of this Village Fund.

Policy Evaluation is inseparable from the implementation and the results of the achievements of the policy itself which are assessed through the establishment of 7 Priority Principles in determining Village Fund programs and activities, and then will find obstacles from the realization of this policy. This Village Fund Evaluation uses the Ex-post evaluation model. With the formal evaluation approach proposed by William Dunn with evaluation indicators including (1) effectiveness, (2) adequacy, (3) equity, (4) responsiveness, and (5) accuracy.

Based on some of the indicators above, the researcher wants to explain how the implementation of Village Fund in realizing Village independence, analyze the determinant factors that affect the implementation of village funds and explain the contribution of the Village Fund program in realizing Village independence in Soppeng Regency.

## **II. MATERIAL AND METHODS**

This research uses descriptive qualitative research with a phenomenological approach. As stated (Usman and Akbar 2009) that descriptive research describes or writes down the results of the objectivity of the researcher, like images or photos obtained from field data, then the results can be in the form of images or in words. This study aims to understand the object under study in depth (Gunawan 2014). The data used in this study are secondary data through a collection of data and documents on relevant Village Fund from 2015-2019 in Soppeng Regency, and primary data through the results of informant interviews and field observations.

This research was carried out in Soppeng Regency in six villages, each of which was different in the condition of the Village Status as measured by the Village Build Index 2019, involving Village Officials, Village elements, Officials at the Village Community Empowerment Service, Soppeng Regency, and Village Assistants as informants. Data analysis was carried out using an interactive analysis model described by (Miles, Huberman, and Saldana 2014), which starts from collecting data from interviews, observation and documentation then recorded in field notes consisting of descriptive and reflective, then the data is reduced through simplification. Data to sharpen the data needed in the research, then the presentation of the data in which this step is taken to organize the data systematically so that it forms a complete and integrated data component and finally Conclusion Drawing / Verification. This step is taken to analyze the results of Village Fund achievements, the determinant factors that influence Village Fund policy, and the contribution of village funds in realizing independence as the focus of this study

## **III. Result**

### **A. Achievements of Village Fund in Soppeng District**

The development of Village Fund during the last 5 years in Soppeng Regency has developed rapidly, where in 2019 the total Village Fund revenue has reached Rp. 185,419,491,000. The increase in the Village Fund each year follows the development of the condition of the Village, which then the impact of receiving this Village Fund results in a change in Village Status which is measured through the Village Index builds as follows:

In 2017 : 1, Village is Very Disadvantaged, 20 Villages behind The Village, 27 Villages Developing Villages, and 1 Villages Advanced Villages.

In 2018 : Very Disadvantaged Villages no longer exist, Disadvantaged Villages decreased by 14 so that the remaining 6 Villages, Developed Villages increased by 14 Villages to become 41 Villages, and developed Villages increased to 2 Villages.

In 2019 : Villages that are very underdeveloped are gone, disadvantaged villages have decreased by 2 villages to become 4 villages, developing villages have decreased by 6 villages to become 35 villages, and Maju Villages have increased by 8 villages to become 10 villages.

Achievement of Village Fund in Determining Programs and activities for the last 5 years in Soppeng District was dominated by activities in the Development Sector compared to activities in the field of community

empowerment. Development activities had started when the Village Fund policy was implemented, while community empowerment activities were carried out in 2016 and even then in villages with advanced status as measured in the Developing Village Index.

B. Determinant Factors of Village Fund Policy

1. Bureaucratic Structure Factors

a. Lack of skills and expertise in Village Activities Management Resources. May result in delays in the preparation of the Activity planning document to the Activity Accountability report for the application of the Village Fund. The following is an interview with the Head of Timusu Village who stated that:

"The obstacle we face is the limited number of skilled human resources in the village, because if we use personnel outside the village, it is consultant services and this eliminates the principle of self-management in planning activities and calculating the budget for the needs of activities and preparing supporting documents in the form of pictures and others. "

The statement above was the same as expressed by the Head of the Rompegading Village Planning, which stated that:

"The weaknesses we face in the village are the lack of skilled resources capable of managing the Village Fund program activities called the activity implementation team and the village infrastructure team, almost the people in the village do not have the expertise either in experience or education level, it is very rare for people with expertise to rarely live in the village. So that the people who become this team, even though they have been given repeated training, still cannot become experts, especially in completing supporting documents such as RAB and drawings for the work to be carried out. "

b. Program independence, there are limitations in proposing programs and activities outside the Village RPJM that have been determined by the Village head. Following are the results of an interview with one of the villagers in Soppeng Regency, he stated that:

"We have submitted a proposal, we have even proposed several times programs and activities related to development in this area, but it is still not implemented by the village government, in other words our proposal is not included in the Village RPJM and the proposal has not been prioritized. To be implemented, whereas in our opinion the proposal is able to provide benefits to the Village community in general. "

This was confirmed by one of the village heads in Soppeng Regency who explained that:

"Every Proposal for Programs and activities, both in the field of development and in the field of community empowerment, must be based on the Village RPJM, which will be discussed starting from the hamlet level to determine the village development work plan (RKP). , so no proposal is carried out without going through the Village RPJM. "

c. The bureaucratic workflow that is so long in disbursing Village Fund seems that it does not have Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) so it takes a long time. The following is an excerpt from the interview with the Village Head in Soppeng Regency who said that:

"The disbursement process, which is very convoluted so far, is not in accordance with the Presidential Instruction in the Village Head Coordination Meeting that the use of Village Fund should not be made difficult, if possible, only a piece of paper. However, in reality what we have done so far is too much document verification carried out in several agencies outside the village itself. This causes a lot of time consuming and wasted paper as a result of bound documents. "

2. Socio-Cultural Factors

This socio-cultural change is one of the obstacles to village independence, with the implementation of the Village Fund policy with the cash-intensive implementation mechanism, bringing social change to a materialistic direction. One of the village heads in Soppeng Regency explained that:

"One of the impacts of the Village Fund is that the current community has led to a materialistic nature (all activities in the village have been valued in money), this has shifted the cultural value of community cooperation which was inherent and strong when previously there was a Village Fund, this is because There is a regulation on the Cash Work Intensive Program, so when people are called on to implement development infrastructure, money always ends. "

3. Geographical Location Factors

Apart from the 2 factors above, it turns out that the Geographical Location Factor is a factor affecting the independence of the Village, because the Village which is geographically located far from the regional authority will take longer time to fulfill the basic infrastructure needs in the area, so that sometimes the development of the village is very slow, when compared to Villages that have regional authority in their territory. In addition, Geographical Position is closely related to changes in village status as measured by the Build Village Index. Through this indicator, many villages are not ready for a change in their Village Status which is assessed through Resilience measures determined through the Build Village Index. So that if there is a change in Village status, it will not have an impact on the independence of the Village itself. Then the Geographical Location also greatly affects the Amount of the Village Fund Budget, therefore it requires direct objectivity in assessing the Geographical Difficulty Index.

C. Contribution of Village Fund Programs and Activities in realizing Independence

Program Contribution Measurement II is an evaluation of the program achievements and activities that have been carried out as a result of the implementation of the Village Fund. This measure uses policy evaluation indicators from (Dunn 1994), namely effectiveness, adequacy, equity, responsiveness, and accuracy. As the translation below:

a. Effectiveness, a measure of effectiveness in the implementation of Village Fund in Soppeng District runs optimally. First, effectiveness is measured through the objective approach which can be seen from the benefits of development that have been carried out. This can give the effect of increasing the productivity of the Village Community, eg. The existence of the Village road development which is intended for the Village community. The following is an excerpt from the interview results of the head of the Teppoe Hamlet, Mattabulu Village in Soppeng Regency, he explained that:

"So far what the village government has done is very effective, especially the Beton road, because this road has been traversed by cars and motorbikes, although until now it is still not optimal, two cars cannot be passed, only one can pass. However, with this it made it easy for us to go to the city, our children were also able to continue with higher education. I myself feel helped by the existence of the Village Fund, the current development has become a very long need for our community, especially for our Dusu. "

Then the two effectiveness through the systems approach, namely the implementation of Village Fund policies has been carried out with a predetermined mechanism, not found in the process of implementing descriptions in the application of policies. Following are the results of the interview with the Head of Planning for Rompegading Village related to the Implementation in accordance with the established mechanism. The following is an excerpt from the interview:

"The management of Village Fund has been regulated through the Legislation of the Ministry of Health, of course we as users are obliged to follow the work flow that has been determined in carrying it out, from starting to look for proposals to stipulating in the form of APBD , not only that the form of management is carried out according to the mechanism some have been determined by the regional government of Soppeng Regency. "

b. Adequacy, the measure of the adequacy of the Village Fund implementation carried out in Soppeng Regency, is not yet optimal, the measure of adequacy is very relatively measured in the Village Fund, but what is meant by adequacy here is to what extent the results are able to solve the problem? Because the number of needs that exist in the Village. Village is still very much of a priority, especially since the Village Fund is limited in number and has not been able to complete the needs that exist in the Village to date. Primarily a village with a very difficult Geographical Difficulty Index. Based on an interview with the Head of the Kusun Kursu, Timusu Village, he explained that the Village Fund has not resolved all problems in the Village so far, here is an excerpt from the interview:

"The development that has been carried out in the past 5 years has grown very rapidly when compared to the previous Village Fund, but what has been done so far, especially infrastructure has not been able to meet all the needs of the people in Timusu Village, so further development is still needed. Other developments, in order to support community activities in the village. "

c. Equity, the equal measure of the implementation of the Village Fund in Soppeng Regency so far, has been optimal, because the implementation of the Equitable Program for both the Development and Community Empowerment is determined through the Village Deliberation, so that what is determined is a consequence and joint responsibility. Following are the results of the interview with the head of the Polewali Hamlet,

Rompegading Village, related to the equal distribution of programs and activities from the Village Fund, as follows:

"The development carried out in 2 hamlets in this village has basically been evenly distributed in the last 5 years, this is because the proposals carried out are adjusted to their priority needs, why is that because the strategy of applying equalization to program proposals and activities in rompegading villages determines proposals based on clarification and Direct observation according to actual conditions, this is done so that the proposed programs and activities can be seen on the basis of their benefits and priority needs. "

The Head of Timusu Hamlet, Timusu Village also confirmed that the development carried out in the Village was based on a priority scale and the need to reflect a fair and equitable nature, and not even just Village Fund that contributed to equitable distribution but the Regional Government also took part in equitable development in the Village the following excerpt from the interview:

"The development carried out in 3 hamlets in Timusu Village is based on proposals from each hamlet based on the priority scale and needs, the Village government also provides freedom in using the Village Fund which is fair and equitable, of course with the consideration of many benefits for the Village community, so that I think what is in the village nowadays is quite evenly distributed, then the distribution of development is also a lot through development that has been carried out by the regional government itself, so this is also one of the aspects that has led to equity in Timusu Village.

d. Responsiveness, a measure of the responsiveness of the implementation of the Village Fund in Soppeng Regency so far, has been running optimally, because the village government provides the widest possible access to the community to propose priority needs to be implemented in their area, and the village government responds to these needs in a mechanism that has been regulated in accordance with the established standard procedures. Then this responsiveness can also be seen with the many programs and activities that have been carried out by the village so far, both in the field of development and in the field of community empowerment. Based on the results of interviews with the Mattabulu Village Head who explained that the implementation of activities and programs from the Village Fund was carried out in accordance with the Standard Procedures that had been established as a form of government responsiveness in carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the following is an excerpt from the interview:

"Through a Village deliberation which is then determined by the Village Head together with the Mattabulu Village Consultative Body. Of course the selection of the implementers of this activity is based on their abilities and expertise, so that development is carried out as planned. This is done in accordance with the Implementation instructions for the use of Village Fund, which have been determined based on the Standard Procedure. "

e. Accuracy, a measure of accuracy in implementing the Village Fund Policy which has been implemented so far in Soppeng Regency, has been running optimally, because programs and activities have a positive impact on society, both from increasing productivity and increasing welfare for the village community, especially business actors in the village. This development can be measured through the impact on the development and economic growth of the Village community. This is evidenced by the existence of Village Roads that were made in Mattabulu and Patampanua Villages, which were able to improve the economy of the Village community, because before this Village Road the sales of agricultural and plantation products were only able to bring them to the market once a day, whereas now after their existence This Village Road has been able to carry agricultural products and community plantations many times a day. This was confirmed by one of the Mattabulu Village Community Leaders, who explained about the benefits of development built with the Village Fund, following an excerpt from the interview:

"The people of the Teppoe community are now able to bring their plantation products to the market to get money and even 5-6 times a day, even though it used to be very difficult and difficult, because the access to the Village road cannot be passed by 4-wheeled vehicles, so it can only be done once a day. It means that the current economic conditions of the community have improved, especially those who are gardening and farming as a result of the improved access to Village Roads. "

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

1. The implementation of Village Funds in Soppeng Regency has not run optimally, because it has not met the standards of the application of the Priority Principles for Determining Village Fund Programs and Activities, namely the Self-Management Principles and Resource-Based Principles. The achievement of the Village Fund is dominated by the development sector, while the community empowerment sector is seen to be less implemented in the Village which has been borne by the Village Fund for the last 5 years. The implementation of the Community Empowerment Sector is mostly carried out by Villages with the status of Developing and Advanced Villages, while the Villages are very Little Disadvantaged, this is because the need

for Basic Infrastructure in disadvantaged villages is still very minimal. Even though the Village Fund has not achieved optimal performance so far, there has been a change in the condition of the village to date as measured by the Developing Village Index, which is where the Village Fund is able to change the Village Status, which was previously dominated by the Status of a Disadvantaged Village, and has now changed domination to advanced Village Status.

2. Determinant factors that affect Village Fund in realizing Village independence include the first factor of bureaucratic structure that does not run optimally due to management resources, limitations on program independence and bureaucratic workflows that are too long, second, geographical location factors that are not used as the basis as an influencing factor in realizing Village independence, as a result the amount of the Village Fund budget is limited in completing Basic Infrastructure, especially development in the Village, and its geographic location also affects the size of changes in Village status. The three Socio-Cultural Factors, Community Socio-Cultural Change with the implementation of the Village Fund policy with the cash-intensive implementation mechanism, bringing social changes to the community towards a materialistic direction, so that sometimes in the implementation of infrastructure development activities the level of community participation in supporting its implementation has greatly decreased, this has eroded the local culture of the Village mainly the nature of mutual cooperation.

3. The contribution of the Village Fund Program in realizing Village independence in Soppeng Regency is very large, seen in the benefits felt by the community. The implementation of programs and activities in the field of Development provides benefits for improving the quality of life of the Village community, for example the Farmers group and the Village community can be assisted by the Construction of Farm Roads, so that they are able to increase community activities better than before, while the implementation of programs and activities in the field of community empowerment is able to support productive activities the community, for example the UMKM group in the village is helped by the existence of training conducted in the village, and BUMDES can run with the participation of capital from the Village Budget. Although the community has felt the huge contribution to the Village Fund which is a source of additional income for the Village in Soppeng Regency, it has not been able to complete all the basic needs that exist in the Village. As a result of this limited Village Fund, it has not fulfilled the adequacy indicator for the implementation of the Village Fund in Soppeng Regency.

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Andi Sutra Rimba, et. al. "Study of Analysis and Evaluation of Village Fund Policy in Soppeng District." *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 26(01), 2021, pp. 31-36.