

THE UTILIZATION OF VILLAGE FUNDS IN VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT AND VILLAGE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT IN BUATA VILLAGE, BOTUPINGGE DISTRICT, BONE BOLANGO REGENCY

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ABSTRACT

This scientific paper aims to analyze the use of village funds in community development and empowerment programs in Buata Village, focusing on the infrastructure and economic sectors. The research method used a descriptive qualitative approach. Data collection was carried out through in-depth interviews with key informants, as well as the study of related documents. Moreover, the data analysis used the Miles and Huberman model. The conclusion shows that the 2023 village fund allocation in Buata Village has been optimally utilized to fund several priority programs for village infrastructure development, such as improving road access, clean water, and drainage. Implementing these programs generally positively impacts accessibility, mobility, and villagers' quality of life. However, using village funds in community economic empowerment is still insignificant in achieving the poverty alleviation target. This is because the program design is still not on target and is not supported by incentive follow-up assistance after training or capital assistance. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen strategies and schemes so that similar activities in the following years can run more optimally and substantially improve people's welfare.

Keywords: Village Fund, Development, Empowerment, Infrastructure, Welfare.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the Indonesian government has prioritized rural development. This is marked by the government budget allocated to different village development programs. The goal is to improve the welfare and empower rural communities that have been left behind.

One of the main policies in village development is the enactment of Law No. 6/2014 on Villages. Through this law, the state recognizes the important role of villages in national development. Villages have their own rights, authority and funding sources to organize village administration and

implement development in accordance with local potential.

In this regard, the government allocates the Village Fund budget from the State Budget as a stimulant for village development. These village funds are channeled directly to village governments with the aim of financing various development programs, community empowerment and community development at the village level.

In order for the use of the Delsa Fund to be properly implemented, the government has implemented the Meltelri Pelratulran in Nelgelri Number 20 Tahuln 2018 on the Management of the Delsa Fund. This

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regulation details the management of the Delsa Fund so that it is well-targeted in financing various activities for the development and empowerment of the Delsa community.

The development of the delsa and the empowerment of the delsa community have become important aspects of national development in Indonesia. This is repeated in UIUI No. 6 Tahun 2014 on Delsa which states that the government is obliged to finance the development of delsa and the development of delsa communities. In line with this, the government allocates the Delsa Fund, which is funded by the State Budget, as an instrumental stimulus for the development of delsa and the empowerment of delsa communities.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research approach used in this research is a qualitative approach. Qualitative research is a method for exploring and understanding the meaning that a number of individuals or groups of people ascribe to social or humanitarian problems. The selection of a qualitative approach in this study was carried out with the consideration that this study aims to understand the utilization of village funds in village development and village community empowerment from the perspective of village officials and villagers in Buata Village.

The research design that will be used is an embedded single case study research

design. This design was chosen because this research only focuses on one case, namely the utilization of village funds in Buata Village, but the analysis is carried out on several priority programs or aspects of village development funded by the village funds. With this single case study design, it is expected that researchers can deeply understand the utilization of village funds in the development and empowerment of village communities.

The type of data used in this research is qualitative data. Qualitative data is data that is abstract or not directly measurable, such as descriptive narratives from interviews and observations regarding perceptions, attitudes, behaviors and personal experiences that are collected and processed using qualitative methods. The utilization of qualitative data in this study is to gain a deeper understanding of the description of the utilization of village funds in the development and empowerment of village communities from the perspective of village officials and the community in Buata Village.

Primary data sources in this study are data obtained directly from selected informants through interviews and participatory observation in Buata Village as the research location. The selected informants included village officials (Village Head, Village Secretary, Chairman of the BPD), community leaders, RT/RW heads, and program beneficiary villagers. Primary data was used to obtain information related to planning,

implementation and development programs and village community empowerment funded by village funds in Buata Village.

Secondary data sources were obtained from policy documents related to the Village Fund, APBDes, RKPDes reports and implementation reports from relevant agencies such as Bone Bolango Regency, Bappeda, and BPMPD. In addition, literature studies from books, research journals, and internet media are also secondary data that support primary data analysis. Secondary data serves to strengthen the interpretation and understanding of the primary data that researchers have collected.

The social situation in this study focused on Buata Village, Buata Sub-district, Bone Bolango Regency as the research location. Buata Village was chosen as the research location with the consideration that Buata Village is one of the villages in Bone Bolango Regency, Gorontalo Province that regularly receives Village Fund allocations. In addition, based on initial observations, it was found that Buata Village had implemented several development and community empowerment programs funded by the Village Fund. Therefore, Buata Village is considered representative to be used as a research location related to the utilization of the Village Fund in village development and village community empowerment.

The main objects or key informants who will be interviewed in this study include:

RESEARCH RESULTS

List of Informant Names

NO	NAME	POSITION
1.	Rusdin Suma,ST	Village Head
2.	Yakub Deti	Secretary
3.	Yusran Ibrahim	BPD
4.	Wolan Hippi	Community

The five key informants were chosen because they were considered to have the best understanding of the planning, management, implementation, and monitoring of village development and community empowerment programs in Buata Village funded by the Village Fund.

RESEARCH RESULTS

1. Utilization of Village Fund in Village Development

The development of the delsa has become one of the top priorities in the utilization of the Delsa Fund by the Bulata Delsa Government in 2023. This is in line with the purpose and objectives of the disbursement of the Delsa Fund from the State Budget to finance the delsa development program in order to improve the welfare and quality of life of the delsa community. Based on the data on the realization of the Delsa Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBDels) of Bulata in 2023, it is known that from the total budget of the Delsa Fund of Rp644,925,000, a total

of Rp258,709,090 was allocated, or about 40% for the Desa Development.

In order to learn more about the process of planning, implementation, achievements and impacts of the utilization of Dana Delsa in the development of delsa in Delsa Bulata, the researcher conducted a series of interviews with a number of narrators. This was necessary to confirm the cellular data and obtain direct information from the relevant stakeholders in order to be more comprehensive and accurate, as well as to analyze the data:

a) Village Head

Consult the head of the village of Bulata on the prioritized planning process for the development of the village funded by the Village Fund in 2023 and who is involved and how to implement the participation mechanism, he explained, as well as the details:

“The delsa development prioritization program financed from the Delsa Fund in 2023 is reflected in the Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMDels) of Delsa Bulata for the years 2019-2024. This RPJMDels was formulated by involving community participation through the form of Mulsyawarah PelreIncanaan Pelmbangunan Delsa (MulsreInbangdels) by including representatives from various groups such as community leaders, RT/RW heads, representatives of farmer groups, business groups, karang tarulna and others. In the MulsreInbangdels, the proposals for the

development programs of the delsa from the aspirations of the community were discussed, which were then filtered and determined to be the priority programs for the development of the delsa in the RPJMDels. From the RPJMDels, every year the Delsa Government launches the Delsa Government Work Plan (RKPDels) which covers the priority programs for the development of the delsa in one sixth year. It is this RKPDels that will later become a reference in preparing the Delsa Budget (APBDels) including the allocation of the Delsa Fund to finance the priority programs for the development of Delsa in 2023.”

According to the Head of the Delsa Bulata, the challenges and obstacles in the utilization of the Delsa Fund for the development of the Delsa in 2023 and how to overcome them, he explained as follows:

“One of the main challenges in the utilization of the Delsa Fund for the development of the delsa in 2023 is the limited amount of the Delsa Fund itself when compared to the large number of priorities for the development of basic infrastructure in the delsa. The Delsa Fund budget of Rp 644 million is simply not able to cover all the basic needs such as the construction of neighborhood roads, drains, bridges, community toilets, Posyandul and others in one budget year. As a result, there must be a re-prioritization of the priorities that have already been set in the RPJMDels. Another problem is the geographical condition of Delsa Bulata, which is difficult

to navigate, thus hampering the acceleration and distribution of materials for development activities. In addition to that, the limited resources of delsa officials who are competent in the management and technical supervision of development projects is also a problem. The efforts that we have made to overcome this problem include optimizing the local revenue and proposing funding from other sources such as the Delsa Fund from the Provincial / District APBD. We have also made efforts to propose a proposal for the activities of the national government to be financed through the national priority program. In terms of the distribution of materials, we are implementing *elfisielnsi* and establishing cooperation with third parties such as material launchers to obtain better and more efficient distribution channels. Meanwhile, to overcome human resource limitations, we are seeking technical training for village officials, as well as partnering with consulting firms or professional organizations such as contractor associations to help supervise and control development projects.”

DISCUSSION

1. Utilization of Village Funds in Village Development

The utilization of the Delsa Fund for village development in Delsa Bulata in 2023 was focused on basic infrastructure development such as neighborhood roads, drainage, and clean water supply by

allocating 40% or Rp258 million of the total amount of Rp644 million. Delsa funds are mostly used for public infrastructure, and the development of infrastructure in Delsa Bulata is indeed a priority in order to improve public services. However, according to the Head of Delsa, the budget of the Delsa Fund is not proportional to the number of infrastructure improvements in Delsa. *Selkreтары* Delsa and BPD suggested that Delsa optimize other funding sources such as Delsa PAD and third-party cooperation.

Infrastructure development from the Village Fund in Delsa Buata is considered well-targeted because it has not provided substantial improvements to the community. The head of the RT observed that a badly damaged road became a *belton* road that facilitated the mobility of residents, which was reported by the beneficiaries. In addition, PDAM's provision of clean water contributed to improving the health and quality of life of the community. Supporting the above conclusion, infrastructure improvements have had a positive impact on mobility, health, and standard of living. In terms of governance, the budgeting for the development of *delsa* infrastructure from the Delsa Fund in Buata Village has followed the established procedures, from planning in the RKPDe, discussion of the APBDe, to implementation and accountability. However, the BPD assesses that project supervision is still limited, so that the quality of the results is not maximized. The BPD suggested

improvements by increasing technical supervision through experts. This emphasizes the importance of capacity building in managing village infrastructure projects.

In general, the utilization of the Delsa Fund for the development of the infrastructure of Delsa Bulata in 2023 has been effective in improving the quality of public infrastructure, although there are still a number of shortcomings in the management and achievement of results. Evaluation is needed to improve the development plan of the next decade to be more optimal, even-handed, and well-targeted by taking into account the input of various community feedbacks and the involvement of relevant stakeholders.

Furthermore, the Head of Delsa identified that the main challenge in utilizing the Delsa Fund for infrastructure development is the difficult geographical conditions of Delsa, which hampers the distribution of materials. In addition, the capacity of the Delsa apparatus in project management is still limited. To overcome these challenges, the Head of Delsa has attempted to elaborate on the distribution of materials through partnerships with third parties. On the other hand, Delsa's Secretary has implemented training for Delsa's apparatus as well as cooperation with professional agencies to assist in project management.

The BPD also expressed its appreciation for the achievements of the Delsa infrastructure development results from the

Delsa 2023 Fund, which were considered significant, including 500 road repairs and 50 rumah connections that received clean water. However, the BPD also criticized the lack of coordination and field supervision which resulted in slow and low quality work. To improve the situation, the BPD suggested the recruitment of field supervisors from professional staff as well as increased coordination and clear division of tasks between project implementers.

In conclusion, the utilization of the Delsa Fund for the development of the infrastructure of Delsa Bulata has been well-targeted and has provided benefits for improving the basic services of the Delsa community. However, there are still a number of weaknesses in governance such as poor coordination and technical supervision of project implementation. For that reason, improvements in the management of the development of the Delsa Fund infrastructure must be made so that the utilization of the Delsa Fund can be optimized.

2. Utilization of Village Funds in Village Community Empowerment

The utilization of the Delsa Fund for community empowerment in Delsa Bulata in 2023 is focused on the entrepreneurship training program, business infrastructure assistance, and the provision of capital for UIMKM and micro business groups. The

strategy of empowerment is carried out through the mentoring of professional staff over a long period of time in order to nurture the target groups. According to Selkreltaris Delsa, the main problem is the low interest in entrepreneurship among the community. This is in line with the observation that the challenge of community development in Delsa is the lack of entrepreneurial awareness and motivation.

At the field level, community economic empowerment programs from the Delsa Fund, such as sewing training and business capital grants for artisans, have been realized in the region, but not optimally. Furthermore, community leaders assessed that the achievements of community empowerment from the Delsa Fund are still not optimal in terms of empowering the delsa economy and alleviating poverty. Melnurlult pelndapatnya, pelbelrdayaan pelrlul designed lebih massive and targeted at the poor. The key to the success of the pelmbelrdayaan program lies in the intelligence of the target group.

In terms of governance, the budgeting of community economic empowerment programs from the Delsa Fund has gone through the process of drafting the RKP Dels and APBDels as well as its accountability in accordance with the relevant regulations. However, the BPD believes that the utilization of the Dana Delsanya is still not optimal due to the lack of synergy and interdependence between programs. For example, business training is not followed by

further mentoring, resulting in poor implementation. For this reason, BPD recommends the development of a comprehensive and interdependent development framework, along with recommendations that the development programs of the delsa community be carried out in a telegraphic and interdependent manner to ensure their effectiveness.

In terms of implementation, the utilization of the Delsa Fund for community development in Delsa Bulata is only at the implementation stage with insignificant results. The problem of the lack of entrepreneurial motivation of the community is an obstacle that must be overcome through a strategy that is more flexible and mellelntulh the real needs of the delsa community. In addition, the quality of post-training mentoring should be improved to implement the development and expansion of community businesses. The example set by the beneficiaries who were able to increase the scale of their business after receiving the capital is also worth emulating.

Furthermore, the Kelpala Delsa has been trying to establish partnerships with the South Sulawesi business partners and related agencies to increase the capacity of the Delsa community development. On the other hand, Keltula RT suggested that the economic empowerment of the Delsa Fund should be prioritized to the poor and vulnerable groups with a more transparent aid scheme to prevent abuse. He also emphasized the need for post-budget assistance as well as the

accelerated rollout of gulna products to ensure the sustainability of the target group's business.

In conclusion, the utilization of the Delsa Fund for the development of delsa communities is just at the implementation stage with various limitations in terms of the achievement of results and impact. Improvement of a more comprehensive and targeted empowerment strategy by involving various related parties is highly recommended so that future selrupla activities can be more optimal.

CONCLUSION

In general, the utilization of the Village Fund for village development in Buata Village in 2023 was quite effective in improving public infrastructure such as road infrastructure, drainage and clean water supply. As a result, there is an increase in accessibility and mobility of residents as well as the quality of health and living standards of the village community. However, there are still challenges in terms of limited budget ceilings and weak technical supervision of project implementation that need to be overcome for more optimal utilization of the Village Fund.

Meanwhile, the utilization of the Village Fund in the field of community empowerment in Buata Village is only at the initial stage with various programs such as entrepreneurship training and revolving business capital assistance. However, the achievements and impacts are still limited in

empowering the village economy and alleviating poverty. This needs to be followed up with improvements in program design that are more massive and targeted at vulnerable groups by prioritizing aspects of mentoring and sustainability to be more optimal.

In terms of governance, in general, the management and financial accountability of the Village Fund for development and empowerment in Buata Village has followed the applicable regulatory procedures. However, it is necessary to improve coordination and synergy between empowerment programs to make them more effective and touch the strategic targets of poverty alleviation and village unemployment. In addition, increasing the role of supervision by the BPD and community control is also crucial to prevent Village Fund irregularities in the field.

Overall, it can be concluded that the achievements and challenges of utilizing the Village Fund for the development and empowerment of the Buata Village community in 2023 are quite diverse. Continuous evaluation and improvement of various aspects such as program planning, targeting, supervision and mentoring systems need to be improved by considering input from various stakeholders in order to optimize the use of village funds in the future.

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