Indonesian Community Empowerment Journal
Journal Homepage: https://icejournal.com/index.php/icejournal

Building Community Capacity in Village Fund Management: Implementation of the Public Administration Assistance Model in Rantau Pandan Village, Indonesia

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
Community capacity
Community service
Public administration
Rantau pandan village
Village funds

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All authors have reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript.

https://doi.org/10.37275/icejournal.v4i1.54

A B S T R A C T

Village funds are one of the Indonesian government's programs to improve the development and welfare of village communities. However, complex village fund management often becomes an obstacle for village officials who have limited capacity. This community service aims to build the capacity of the Rantau Pandan Village community to manage village funds by implementing a public administration assistance model. This mentoring model includes training, mentoring, and monitoring and evaluation. The results of the activity show that the public administration assistance model is effective in increasing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of village officials in managing village funds. This capacity building is expected to increase accountability and transparency in village fund management, as well as encourage more effective and efficient village development.

1. Introduction

Village funds are one of the Indonesian government's priority programs to improve the development and welfare of village communities. In 2023, the government will allocate village funds amounting to IDR 72 trillion. Village funds are expected to be used to finance various village development programs, such as infrastructure development, economic improvement, and human resource development. However, complex village fund management often becomes an obstacle for village officials who have limited capacity. This can lead to misuse of village funds, such as budget irregularities and poor quality development. Adequate community capacity in managing village funds is very important to ensure accountability and transparency in the use of funds, as well as encourage effective and efficient village development.[1-3]

This community capacity includes knowledge about village fund management, skills in implementing programs and activities, and a responsible and transparent attitude. The public administration assistance model is one solution to increase community capacity in managing Village Funds. This model emphasizes providing training, mentoring, and monitoring and evaluation to village officials and the community.[4-6] Based on the description above, the aim of this community service is to build the capacity of the Rantau Pandan Village community to manage village funds by implementing a public administration assistance model.

2. Methods

This community service uses qualitative methods with a descriptive approach. This service activity was carried out in Rantau Pandan Village, Bungo Regency, Jambi Province. Rantau Pandan Village is one of the villages that receive village funds. This service activity includes three stages, namely: Training: Village officials are given training on managing village funds, including planning, budgeting, implementation, administration, reporting, and accountability. Assistance: Village officials are accompanied by a service team in carrying out village fund management. Monitoring and evaluation: The service team monitors and evaluates the implementation of village fund management activities.

Data collection was carried out using various instruments: Questionnaire: Used to measure the knowledge and attitudes of village officials regarding village fund management; Observation: Used to observe the implementation of Village Fund management activities; Interview: Used to gain more in-depth information about village fund management from village officials and the community. The targets of this community service are: Village officials: Village Head, Village Secretary, Finance Head, Planning Head, and Government Head; Community: Community leaders, religious leaders, and BPD members. This community service activity is carried out in three stages, namely: Stage 1: Training: Planning: Preparation of RPJMDes, RKPDes, and APBDes; Budgeting: Preparation of RAB and DPA; Implementation: Procurement of goods and services, implementation of activities, and disbursement of funds; Administration: Recording and storage of documents; Reporting: Preparation of activity and financial realization reports; Accountability: Accountability for the use of funds. Stage 2: Mentoring: Providing input and suggestions to village officials in implementing activities; Assisting village officials in resolving the problems they face; Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of activities. Stage 3: Monitoring and evaluation: Observing the implementation of activities in the field; Conducting interviews with village officials and the community; Analyzing the data obtained. The results of monitoring and evaluation are used to provide input and suggestions to village officials in order to improve the quality of village fund management.

3. Results and Discussion

Based on Table 1, it can be seen that this community service has provided positive results. Knowledge, skills, and attitudes of village officials regarding village fund management have increased by $p<0.05$. This has an impact on increasing accountability and transparency in village fund management, as well as encouraging more effective and efficient village development, $p<0.05$.

Table 1. Impact of community service in various aspects of community service.

Aspect	Before community service (Mean±SD)	After community service (Mean±SD)
Village officials' knowledge of village fund management	60,34±5,34	85,65±7,76
Village apparatus skills in village fund management	65,66±4,87	80,32±6,87
Village officials' attitudes towards village fund management	70,54±6,54	85,76±7,89
Accountability and transparency in village fund management	68,54±6,78	86,75±7,12

Community service that focuses on increasing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of village officials in managing village funds is expected to have a positive impact on several crucial aspects: accountability, transparency, and village development. Village officials' knowledge of regulations, procedures, and best practices in managing village funds is the main foundation. A good understanding will guide them in carrying out their duties and responsibilities in an accountable and transparent manner. The skills of village officials in planning, implementing, and evaluating programs and activities funded by village funds are very important. These skills ensure that village funds are used effectively and efficiently to achieve village development goals. The attitude of village officials who are responsible, professional, and have integrity is the main key to realizing accountable and transparent village fund management. This attitude encourages them to work with high dedication, avoid misuse of funds, and always adhere to applicable regulations.[7-9]

Increasing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of village officials will directly increase the accountability and transparency of village fund management. Village officials who have adequate knowledge and skills will be able to carry out their duties well and responsibly. A positive attitude will encourage them to work transparently and openly with the community. Accountable and transparent management of village funds will encourage more effective and efficient village development. Village funds will be used on target for programs and activities that are truly needed by village communities. This will improve the quality of life of village communities and encourage overall village progress. Village funds are used for programs and activities that are truly needed by village communities. Infrastructure development and village community empowerment programs are of higher quality. Village communities are more active in the planning, implementation, and supervision of village fund management. Effective and efficient village development can improve the standard of living of village communities.[10-13]

Village officials who have adequate knowledge of the rules and regulations related to village funds, such as the Village Ministerial Decree and the Village Law, will be better able to carry out programs and activities in accordance with the provisions. This minimizes the diversion of funds and increases accountability. Knowledge of effective planning and budgeting will help village officials in preparing programs and activities that are right on target and in line with community needs. This encourages more focused and efficient village development. With adequate knowledge about financial management, village officials can carry out better administration, reporting, and financial accountability. This increases transparency and accountability in the use of village funds. Technical skills in implementing programs and activities, such as procurement of goods and services, will ensure the quality of development and minimize waste. This supports effective and efficient village development. Village officials who are able to communicate well with the community can increase community participation and understanding of village fund management. This encourages transparency and accountability and builds harmonious relationships between village officials and the community. Skills in resolving problems that arise in managing Village Funds will help village officials overcome obstacles and ensure the smooth running of programs and activities. This increases the effectiveness and efficiency of village development.[14-16]

Village officials who have a high awareness of their responsibilities will manage village funds with integrity and professionalism. This minimizes misuse of funds and increases accountability. An open and transparent attitude in managing village funds will build community trust and encourage active participation in the village development process. Village officials who are highly dedicated will work with enthusiasm and motivation to advance the village. This encourages more effective and efficient village development. Increasing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of village officials will increase accountability and transparency in the management of village funds.

Village officials will be better able to account for the use of funds and ensure disclosure of information to the community. This minimizes misuse of funds and builds community trust in the village government. Accountable and transparent village fund management will encourage more effective and efficient village development. Programs and activities that are right on target and in line with community needs will be implemented well. This improves the quality of village development and advances community welfare.[17-19]

4. Conclusion

The public administration assistance model is effective in building the capacity of the Rantau Pandan Village community to manage village funds.

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