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**UTILIZATION OF VILLAGE FUNDS IN COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT IN
BATU PUTE VILLAGE, SOPPENG RIAJA DISTRICT, BARRU REGENCY.**

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to find out: Utilization of the village fund budget in Batu Pute Village, Soppeng Riaja District, Barru Regency. And to find out how the community participates in the Batu Pute Village Budget, Soppeng Riaja District, Barru Regency, with data collection obtained by observation, interviews, documentation. Results This research shows that the utilization of the Batu Pute Village budget has gone very well, as evidenced by the development of infrastructure, the construction of Integrated Service Posts (POSYANDU), Early Childhood Education (PAUD), Sports and Religion which has really helped the local community. And community participation in Batu Pute village is active and voluntary in the development process, meaning that community participation in Batu Pute village is very cooperative and can provide indications to the local government.

Keywords: *Utilization of Village Budget, Community Participation*



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A. INTRODUCTION

The village is a legal community unit that has territorial boundaries and is authorized to regulate and manage the interests of the local community, based on Law Number 33 of 2004 concerning regional central financial balance, where this was welcomed positively by all parties with all the hope that through autonomy regions will be able to stimulate efforts to eliminate centralized practices which on the one hand are considered less profitable for the region and local residents. The principle of regional autonomy uses the principle of autonomy as widely as possible in the sense that regions are given the authority to manage and regulate all government affairs outside of those which are Government affairs as stipulated in the Law.

A budget is a plan that is prepared systematically in the form of numbers with a predetermined time period. Before discussing the budget in depth, the author explains several definitions of the budget. According to Nafarin (2013: 11) "A budget is a plan prepared based on a program that has been approved and usually also states goods/services."

According to Garrison and Noreen (2012: 402) define a budget as follows: "A budget is a detailed plan regarding the acquisition and use of financial and other resources for a certain period."

According to Ikhsan (2009:173). "Budget is an action in financial arrangements. Budget is a short term for integrated profit planning and includes options. According to Suharsimi (2010:1). A budget is a plan prepared systematically which includes all activities expressed in monetary units which are valid for a certain period of time in the future. According to Nafarin (2013:11). A budget is an organization expressed in terms of goods and services. According to Sasongko and Parulian, the budget is a plan of activities that will be carried out by management in one period which is stated quantitatively. Information that can be obtained from the budget includes the number of products and their selling prices for the next year.

Utilization of the village budget is an important part of community empowerment in the local village. The ongoing decentralization process has raised awareness about the importance of regional independence which is based on empowering local potential. Even though currently existing policies still emphasize

autonomy at the Regency/City level, in essence this independence must start from the lowest level of government, namely the Village. It is believed that the Village Government is better able to see the needs that must be prioritized by the community compared to the District Government which actually has a wider and more complex scope of problems. For this reason, the rural development carried out must be in accordance with the problems faced, the potential they have, the community's aspirations and rural development priorities. which has been set.

Based on Government Regulation Number 60 of 2014 concerning Village Funds originating from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget, in the paragraph of the article which has been amended in Government Regulation Number 168 of 2014 to 11 paragraph 2 which states that village funds are allocated fairly based on:

- a. Basic allocation, and
- b. The allocation calculated takes into account the population, poverty rate, area area and level of geographical difficulty of each district/city's village.

In Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, there is the State's commitment to protecting and empowering villages so that they become strong, advanced, independent and democratic so that they can create a strong foundation for implementing governance and development towards a just, prosperous and prosperous society.

Furthermore, it is also hoped that an independent village will be realized where:

- a. The village is not just a beneficiary object, but also a beneficiary subject for local community members;
- b. As a component of the village, it has a sense of togetherness and movement to develop aselocal as a source of livelihood and livelihood for community members.
- c. Villages have the ability to produce and meet the needs and interests of local communities such as food, energy, basic services, etc.;

As a long-term goal, the village is able to provide employment opportunities, provide sources of income for the community and generate sufficient amounts of original village income so that the community is satisfied with the existence of the village budget.

Thus, the village government must take action based on the central government policy which has rolled out Village Funds as a stimulus for village development in a fair and equitable manner in development. The government's role in developing villages is

very important where the government is the main implementing unit in development which will be assisted by several other institutions such as Village Consultative Body (BPD) and Community Empowerment Institution (LPM) and Village Community.

With regard to decentralization/autonomy, the purpose of providing Village Funds (DD) is as stimulant financial assistance to encourage financing of Village Government programs which are supported by community self-help and mutual cooperation participation in carrying out government activities and community empowerment. With a village budget, the level of community satisfaction is very high when the government uses the budget according to what the local community needs.

Therefore, the village government must return to its main duties and functions as village leader, namely:

1. Fostering the lives of village communities.
2. Fostering the village economy.

Based on the results of interviews with several communities, they said that the village government had carried out an infrastructure development program in their area. The direction for empowering village communities that is most effective and faster to achieve goals is by involving the community (general public, underprivileged communities) and elements of government that use more reactive development policies to prioritize the needs of village communities in budget allocations. Village development with direct community empowerment has more effective and efficient results compared to village development using project workers or workers from other villages. One of the most effective community empowerment approaches in order to increase community participation is to stimulate the community to be able to identify their desires and work needs. cooperatively and foster a sense of mutual cooperation among village residents.

Village funds are a tool to help implement village governance, village development. With this village fund, it is hoped that it can help the community in terms of needs, development of facilities and infrastructure, and can develop local economic potential based on the conditions and potential of the village. Management of Batu Pute village funds, Soppeng Riaja District, Barru Regency.

B. RESEARCH METHODS

This research is qualitative research, namely research by obtaining data in the form of words, schemes and images. By means of a survey to produce a descriptive study in the form of the level of community satisfaction with the Batu Pute village budget, Soppeng Riaja District, Barru Regency. The results of the research are a description of the facts found in the field which will be processed in depth and in detail using data collection techniques using observation, interviews, documentation . Observation is a data collection technique by making direct observations on the research object. Interview is a conversation between two or more people and takes place between the resource person and the interviewer. Documentation is a data collection technique by looking at documents, archives and related materials. with this research problem.

Research Location and Time

This research was carried out at the Batu Pute Village office, Soppeng Riaja District, Barru Regency, South Sulawesi Province with the area boundaries:

East:	Manuba Village
North:	Cilellang Village
West:	Makassar Strait
South:	Siddo Village

Research activities were planned within 3 months and carried out at the Batu Pute Village Office, Soppeng Riaja District, Barru Regency. This research was carried out descriptively qualitatively, which emphasizes the depth of the data obtained by researchers.

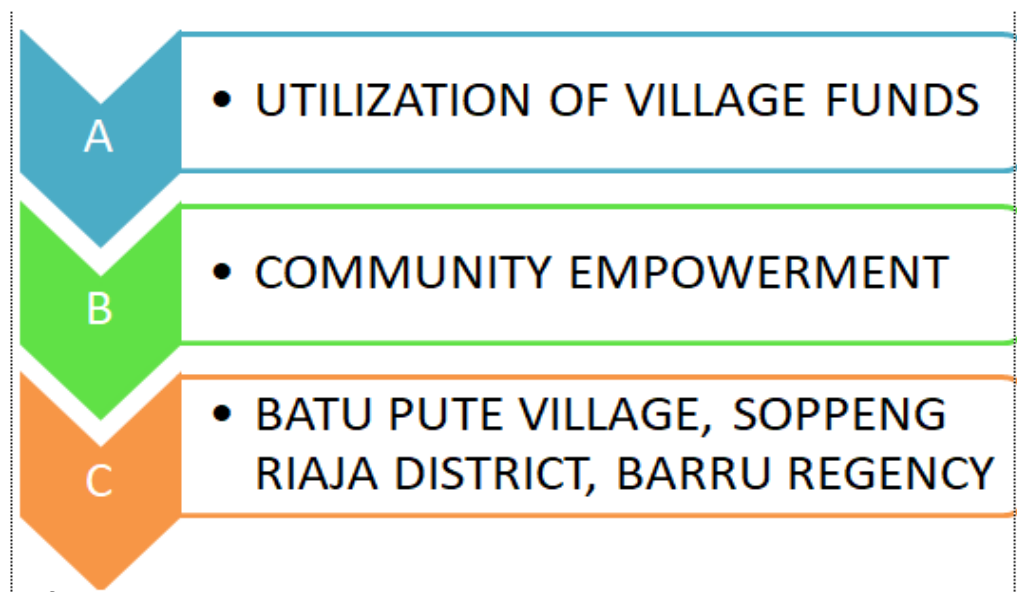


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework

C. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research result.

Utilization of Village Funds in Community Empowerment in Batu Pute Village, Soppeng Riaja District, Barru Regency. In Government Regulation Number 60 of 2014 concerning Village Funds sourced from the APBN, Article 1, paragraph 2 Village Funds are funds sourced from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget intended for Villages which are transferred through the Regency/City Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget and used for finance government administration, development implementation, community development, and community empowerment. The aim of village funds is basically to realize inclusive economic growth by more evenly distributing income.

In an interview conducted with the Head of Batu Pute Village, Mr. Sudarmin A, stated that: "Actually, the use of village funds is quite good. That's why community empowerment in the economic and development sectors really helps the community in meeting their needs." (Sudarmin A, Village Head, Monday 16 December 2022)"

Distribution of funds is the most important thing for more advanced village development. With the enactment of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning villages, there is a direct disbursement of billions of rupiah in funds to villages sourced from the Village fund allocation which is part of the balancing funds received by the

Regency/City. So far, community empowerment in Batu Pute Village has not been running optimally, especially before there was a sizable disbursement of funds from the government. Not only that, the infrastructure development process in Batu Pute Village, Soppeng Riaja District, Barru Regency often conflicts with limited available funds.

In an interview with the village secretary, Mrs. Sitti Rabiah. S.sos,

"That the empowerment carried out by the village government was hampered by a lack of funds and before there were village funds the village government only carried out minimal empowerment with minimal funds. " (Sitti Rabiah S. Sos, Wednesday 22 January 2022)".

The economic situation of the people of Batu Pute Village in general is actually not that bad, well, before there were village funds, there were people who farmed, and also worked as farm laborers, traders, civil servants and others. This village fund was prioritized for infrastructure development this year. That's why the infrastructure situation before the existence of village funds was quite different from after the existence of village funds. Before the existence of village funds, the condition of infrastructure had not been improved, such as roads and bridges had not been repaired. In fact, the condition of the infrastructure before the village funds were quite bad, such as roads in the villages being damaged, bridges being the same. Apart from that, when we, the village government, want to carry out infrastructure improvements, for example, we are always in conflict with the available funds, which was quite difficult before there were village funds.

Empowerment of the Batu Pute Village community before the existence of village funds seemed quite lacking, or even if it existed it had not been able to be felt by the community as a whole. Not only that, the condition of the infrastructure is still not good, such as roads, bridges and others in the villages.

Furthermore, as Mr. Sudarmin A said, before the existence of the Village Fund (DD) program of more than two billion per village, the village government, especially the Batu Pute Village Government, only received funds amounting to IDR 11,451,580.00, which funds came from PAD (Original Village Income) and Financial Assistance (BK).

As time goes by, from 2015 to 2022 the Government is increasingly paying attention to rural development, quite a large flow of funds was channeled to every village in Indonesia, with the hope that villages will be able to develop and not be left behind by the progress that has been felt in urban areas. Likewise with Batu Pute Village, Soppeng Riaja District, Barru Regency receiving the flow of funds. Slowly, the Batu Pute Village government is working on improvements in all areas, starting from infrastructure development which is reflected in the construction or repair of roads in the village. In an interview with Mr Khaerul Amri as head of the local hamlet, he said that:

"With the existence of village funds, the village government, especially Batu Pute, invites and embraces all levels of society in empowerment and development so that it can be improved from various elements, be it population empowerment, welfare, and so on, thank God we are improving little by little." (Khaerul Amri head Hamlet, Friday 1 January 2022). The existence of village funds, things that were specifically community empowerment and/or development were not really felt, this was because one of the reasons was the limited budget available, even for community empowerment in Batu Pute, Soppeng Riaja District, Barru Regency, funding was only limited or self-supporting. Looking at the current situation, the existence of village funds can be utilized as well as possible in by the village government in trying to improve Batu Pute Village. Development in physical or infrastructure aspects, community empowerment in all aspects need to be improved. With relatively large funds for the village now, in order to improve the quality of the village, and the quality of the community so that it is more advanced and better.

Talking about the village government's efforts to increase community empowerment, in Batu Pute Village, Soppeng Riaja District, Barru Regency MUSDES or MUSRENBANG, the implementation of which was attended by representatives from each hamlet, and community leaders. The implementation of MUSDES is intended to follow up on all aspirations submitted by each RT or hamlet, as well as to determine and develop a priority scale for proposed programs, which will be implemented or funded as village programs. The program priorities that have been determined will then be

outlined or will be included in the RPJMDes (Village Medium Term Development Plan) and RKPDes (Village Government Work Plan).).

At least these two things are the stages before implementing the program for the community. The two stages above will always be carried out by the Batu Pute Village Government in its efforts to carry out all forms of community empowerment activities, and/or village development activities. Interview with Ilhamsyah Young Thinkers (Community)

"In my view, empowerment of the Batu Pute village community is still lacking because the distribution of aid has not been fully distributed, it can be said to be a form of development strategy which is expected to be able to improve economic, social and other life." (Ilhamsyah, Monday 03 February 2022).

The village government is a forum for accommodating and realizing all the aspirations of the people in the village, whether they are desires or needs. Then the obligation of the village government itself is to follow up on the aspirations of the community. At least the same thing is being done by the Batu Pute Village Government, which is expected to be able to increase all forms of community empowerment. This can be seen from several benefits and efforts made by the Batu Pute Village Government in improving quality and community empowerment as follows:

1. Infrastructure Development.

Infrastructure development is very vital and important to accelerate the national scale development process. Not only that, with the progress of infrastructure development, it will really support the community in carrying out all its activities, and with this infrastructure development it will also have an impact in various sectors.

Interview with Syahrinang (head of Government)

"The condition of development in Batu Pute Village is currently progressing rapidly, one of which can be seen from the perspective of village development which

can be said to be completely adequate, one example of which is the development of village road infrastructure." (Syahrinang head of government, Friday 17 January 2022) . In accordance with one of the missions of Batu Pute Village, namely optimizing village facilities and infrastructure, this optimization process begins with development, one of which is infrastructure development.

Based on this, the Batu Pute Village Government carried out a village development planning process sourced from the Village Fund Program (DD). The Batu Pute Village Government, in utilizing village funds, generally prioritizes efforts to increase infrastructure development.

Village funds used by the Batu Pute Village Government in order to empower village communities are more directed at repairing or building physical village facilities and infrastructure, which includes repairing or building public facilities on a small scale such as village roads, and repairing roads to public cemeteries.

In implementing village development in 2022, the Batu Pute Village Government has carried out several activities, such as building bridges and building roads in hamlets using cast concrete construction. In implementation.

Interview with Mrs. Marlina Yasin (head of Finance) "The Batu Pute Village Government has allocated funds amounting to Rp. 148,274,100.00, and the funds used for this development come from the Village Fund." (Monday 27 January 2022).

Gradual, comprehensive development for every village in Batu Pute Village, seems to be starting to be implemented and is quite fruitful, the construction of roads and bridges in several villages can be the benchmark. The development carried out by the Batu Pute Village Government is of course based on the suggestions of each community, this means that the benefits of the development or empowerment carried out by the Batu Pute Village Government can really be felt.

2. Development of Pos Integrated Services (POSYANDU).

Health is a human right (1945 Constitution, article 28 H paragraph 1 and Law No. 23 of 1992) and at the same time as an investment, so it needs to be sought, fought for and improved by every individual and by all components of the nation, so that

society can enjoy a healthy life, and in Ultimately, it can create optimal levels of public health. This needs to be done, because health is not the responsibility of the government alone, but is a joint responsibility of the government and society, including the private sector.

Interview with Ziti Rosiana A.Md.Keb.(midwifery)

"One of the positive impacts of having a posyandu is to facilitate the healing of babies, Community Resource Health (UKBM) which is managed and organized from, by, for and with the community in implementing health development, in order to empower the community and make it easier for the community to obtain basic health services, especially to accelerate the reduction in maternal and infant mortality rates." (Ziti Rosiana A.Md Keb, Tuesday February 2022).

So, in order to improve the quality of public health, the Batu Pute Village Government is organizing a community health empowerment program. The creation of Integrated Service Posts (POSYANDU) in villages is an empowerment program in the health sector. Apart from that, the allocation of health facilities is an added value in this health empowerment program. The Batu Pute Village Government allocated funds from the village fund program amounting to Rp. 128,704,000.00, in 2022 to provide buildings and other infrastructure needed by the community, this is done in order to provide comfort in health service activities for babies, toddlers, or pregnant women. It is hoped that this will provide benefits in terms of health for the people of Batu Pute Village. In an interview with Mrs. Marlina Yasin, she stated that:

"In empowering the health sector, we build Posyandu in every environment, such as in villages. This is one of the uses of the village budget in the health sector through village funds. Apart from that, in the health sector we empower Posyandu cadres who work in synergy with village midwives, thank God the implementation of Posyandu can be carried out in every environment with a pre-arranged schedule. Then we also allocate health support facilities, such as baby scales, check tools pregnant mother." (Marlina Yasin, Monday 27 January 2022).

Apart from that, the construction of Integrated Service Posts (Posyandu) in every village, and coupled with the empowerment of Posyandu cadres, the Batu Pute Village Government, Soppeng Riaja District, Barru Regency itself hopes that the people of Batu Pute, especially pregnant women and toddlers, will receive maximum health services. ,

3. Development of Early Childhood Education (PAUD). Education is guidance to develop a child's potential to reach maturity. Interview with one of the early childhood teachers, Riska Basir Spd.

"Batu Pute Village, if viewed from educational background, has implemented 9 years of compulsory education, and many even continue to a higher level. More than 60% of the people of Batu Pute Village have achieved a minimum of 9 years of study or have reached the Secondary School level. First (Junior High School/SMP)." (Riska Basir S.pd, Wednesday 05 February 2022).

With the attention of the government and the community, they have formed a program for the development and management of Early Childhood Education (PAUD) aimed at the community so that children at an early age can be educated, disciplined and have a good mentality. Interview with Mrs. Marlina Yasin (Head of Finance).

"In this empowerment, the village government allocated funds amounting to Rp. 20,000,000. Community awareness in sending children to school from an early age in Batu Pute Village is quite good, which can be seen from the participation of the community who send children to PAUD in Batu Pute Village, Soppeng Riaja District, Barru Regency." (Marlina Yasin Head of Finance, Monday 27 February 2022).

4. Sports Development

According to RI Law no. 2005 Concerning the National Sports system in article 1 paragraphs 20 and 21, it is explained what is meant by sports facilities and infrastructure. Sports infrastructure is a place or space including the environment used for sports activities and the organization of sports. Meanwhile, sports facilities are equipment or equipment used for sports activities. Sports infrastructure and facilities are very important to support the development and development of sports, especially sports

achievements. The existence of sports infrastructure and facilities is very important to support the development and development of sports needed for development that meets national standards.

"In this activity, the government allocated village funds amounting to Rp. 11,950,000.00, in developing sports for the community of Batu Pute Village. The Village Government invites the community, especially youth, to be active in sports. This is intended for the community to Batu Pute village can gather and establish good communication between members of the community, in addition to the government's attention to community health." (Marlina Yasin head of Finance, Monday 27 January 2022).

5. Religious Activities

The majority of Batu Pute Village residents are Muslims. The village government uses Village Funds to also allocate them for religious activities such as commemorating Islamic holidays. For this religious activity, the government allocated Rp. 25,000,000, with the flow of village funds for religious activities in Batu Pute Village, the community is very enthusiastic in participating in religious activities, for example in participating in the increasingly lively commemoration of the Prophet's birthday. In an interview with Mr. Muhammadong as the administrator of the Jabal Nur Mosque, Batu Pute Village, he said:

"Thank God, with the existence of the village government program which is assisted by village funds, Batu Pute Village's religious activities can run more optimally. In 2022, the village government allocated a budget for religious activities of IDR. 25,000,000, this is very helpful for us to meet our needs for religious activities. For renting tents and sound, thank God it helped." (Muhammadong, Wednesday 05 February 2022).

D. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the research process carried out, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- Utilization of the Batu Pute village budget, Soppeng Riaja District, Barru Regency for community empowerment has gone well. This can be seen from the efforts made by the Village Government, such as infrastructure development,

construction of integrated service posts (POSYANDU), development of early childhood education (PAUD), development of sports and religion.

- Community participation in the utilization of the Batu Pute Village Budget, Soppeng Riajan District, Barru Regency in utilizing the Village budget has gone well. Community participation is very important in solving problems and making work easier in the local village, and community participation is a manifestation of awareness, concern and responsibility. community regarding the importance of utilizing village budgets aimed at the common good.

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