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The Role of Farmer Groups in Preventing Corruption of Village Funds (A Case Study in Lamongan Regency)

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran kelompok tani dalam mencegah praktik korupsi dana desa, dengan studi kasus di Desa Manyar, Kabupaten Lamongan. Pendekatan yang digunakan adalah gabungan antara penelitian hukum normatif dan empiris, dengan mengkaji regulasi hukum yang berlaku dan temuan lapangan dari keterlibatan komunitas secara langsung. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa meskipun secara prosedural penyaluran dan penggunaan dana desa mengikuti ketentuan hukum yang berlaku, partisipasi masyarakat dalam pengawasan anggaran masih sangat terbatas. Kelompok tani, yang selama ini diposisikan sebagai unit produksi pertanian, ternyata memiliki potensi sebagai agen informal dalam mengawasi pelaksanaan proyek desa. Temuan ini mengindikasikan bahwa keterlibatan mereka dalam memantau proyek fisik dan melaporkan ketidaksesuaian anggaran mampu menekan celah terjadinya korupsi. Kontribusi ilmiah dari studi ini terletak pada pengakuan terhadap pentingnya aktor-aktor lokal dalam tata kelola yang partisipatif dan berbasis integritas komunitas. Studi ini mendorong pembuat kebijakan untuk mempertimbangkan penguatan peran kelompok tani secara formal dalam sistem pengawasan dana desa, guna menciptakan tata kelola desa yang lebih transparan dan akuntabel.

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the role of farmer groups in preventing corruption of village funds, using a case study in Manyar Village, Lamongan Regency. The research employs a combination of normative and empirical legal approaches by examining relevant legal regulations and field findings based on direct community involvement. The results reveal that while the disbursement and use of village funds procedurally comply with existing laws, community participation in budget oversight remains limited. Farmer groups, traditionally perceived as agricultural production units, have demonstrated potential as informal agents in monitoring village projects. These findings indicate that their involvement in verifying physical project implementation and reporting discrepancies has helped reduce the risk of corruption. The scientific contribution of this research lies in recognizing local actors as key players in participatory governance and grassroots-based integrity systems. The

study advocates for policy reforms that formally integrate farmer groups into village fund oversight frameworks to promote greater transparency and accountability in rural financial governance

INTRODUCTION

Corruption remains one of the most pervasive and destructive challenges facing developing countries, particularly in the management of public funds. In Indonesia, village funds (Dana Desa) were introduced as a strategic fiscal instrument to empower rural communities through local development and inclusive governance.¹ Reports from both the media and official institutions frequently uncover cases of misappropriation and embezzlement of village funds, revealing a persistent gap between regulatory frameworks and practical implementation.

Previous studies have focused mainly on institutional accountability mechanisms such as village heads, auditors, or formal regulatory bodies in combating corruption. While these approaches are necessary, they often underestimate the role of community-based groups, particularly kelompok tani (farmer groups), as grassroots actors in governance. Research by R. Cahyanto Dian Vidiputranto emphasized the importance of procedural compliance in fund allocation but paid little attention to participatory monitoring models.² Similarly, a study by Cut Qory analyzed legal liabilities of corrupt village officials but lacked examination of social controls within rural settings.³ These limitations suggest a narrow focus on top-down enforcement, with limited insight into preventive, community-based solutions.

This article seeks to address these gaps by analyzing how farmer groups in Manyar Village function as informal watchdogs and stakeholders in the planning and implementation of village fund usage. The scientific novelty lies in its integration of normative legal analysis with empirical findings from direct community involvement. By recognizing kelompok tani as key actors in anti-corruption efforts, this study contributes to the emerging discourse on participatory governance and grassroots integrity systems in rural Indonesia. The relevance of this issue is not only regulatory but also developmental, as corruption in village funds can significantly undermine rural welfare and local democracy.⁴

¹ Eko Prasjo, *Desentralisasi Dan Reformasi Tata Kelola Keuangan Daerah*, Gramedia (Gramedia: Gramedia, 2017). 175.

² R. Cahyanto Dian. Vidiputranto, "Pencegahan Korupsi Dalam Pengelolaan Dana Desa Menurut Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014 Tentang Desa (Studi Di Desa Karanganyar Kecamatan Borobudur Kabupaten Magelang)" (Universitas Darul Ulum Islamic Center GUPPI, 2020).

³ Cut Qory, "Pertanggungjawaban Pidana Terhadap Kepala Desa Yang Melakukan Tindak Pidana Korupsi Dana Pembangunan Dan Perekonomian (Di Desa Paya Itik Kecamatan Galang Kabupaten Deli Serdang)" (Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara, 2021).

⁴ Wahyuni Kartika Sari, *Pengelolaan Pemerintahan Desa* (Malang: Setara Press, 2019).172.

Therefore, this article aims to explore two main research questions: First, to what extent is the disbursement and usage of village funds in Manyar Village compliant with applicable laws and regulations? Second, how do farmer groups participate in preventing corruption in the management of these funds?

METHODS

This research employs a normative legal method as its primary approach, since the main issue lies in the ambiguity of applying legal norms in the management of village funds. The normative method is particularly relevant in exploring how legal principles are articulated within statutory frameworks and their alignment with good governance ideals.⁵ To strengthen the analysis, the study incorporates empirical elements, especially through field observations and interviews with farmer groups in Manyar Village. This mixed approach allows the research not only to examine the legal framework but also to assess its practical implementation and the preventive role of community actors.⁶

The statute approach is applied to analyze relevant regulations, including Law No. 6 of 2014 on Villages, Law No. 31 of 1999 in conjunction with Law No. 20 of 2001 on the Eradication of Corruption, and the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 20 of 2018 on Village Financial Management. A conceptual approach is also used to study doctrines and scholarly debates regarding participatory governance and community-based anti-corruption mechanisms. Additionally, the analytical approach is adopted to evaluate the extent to which existing legal norms empower local communities, particularly farmer groups, to engage in budgetary oversight.⁷

The legal materials consist of primary sources (laws and regulations), secondary sources (books, journal articles, and previous theses), and tertiary materials (legal dictionaries and encyclopedias). Data collection was conducted through a document study, complemented with empirical insights from interviews. Such a triangulation of sources increases the reliability and validity of findings.⁸ As noted by Prabowo et al. (2018), combining legal and empirical approaches is crucial in corruption studies because legal compliance alone does not guarantee substantive accountability in practice.⁹

The data were analyzed using qualitative techniques, particularly through contextual and systematic interpretation of legal provisions in comparison with

⁵ Soekanto, Soerjono, and Sri Mamudji, *Penelitian Hukum Normatif: Suatu Tinjauan Singkat* (Jakarta: RajaGrafindo Persada, 2001).

⁶ Marzuki Peter, *Penelitian Hukum* (Jakarta: Kencana, 2017). 133.

⁷ Ibrahim Johny, *Teori Dan Metodologi Penelitian Hukum Normatif* (Malang: Bayumedia Publishing, 2006). 57.

⁸ Klitgaard. Robert, *Controlling Corruption* (Berkeley: University of California Press., 1988). 21.

⁹ H. Y. Prabowo et al., "Fraud and Corruption in Indonesia: A Critical Evaluation of Recent Developments and Potential Improvements," *Journal of Financial Crime* 25, no. 1 (2018): 140–55.

field findings. This method is effective in identifying discrepancies between law and practice, while at the same time uncovering the contribution of farmer groups in fostering a culture of accountability at the grassroots level. Previous studies, such as those by Sopanah (2012) and Dwiputrianti (2018), underline that participatory oversight by community actors enhances the effectiveness of formal anti-corruption mechanisms in village governance.¹⁰

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Legal Compliance in the Disbursement and Allocation of Village Funds in Manyar Village

The first issue in this study concerns the extent to which the disbursement and allocation of village funds in Manyar Village comply with existing statutory regulations. Based on the field findings, village funds received by Manyar Village in 2024 amounted to Rp943,666,000. These funds were allocated through the Anggaran Pendapatan dan Belanja Desa (APBDes) mechanism as stipulated under Article 72 of Law No. 6 of 2014 concerning Villages.¹¹ The disbursement stages followed the three-phase transfer system regulated by the Ministry of Finance: 40% in stage I, 40% in stage II, and 20% in stage III.¹²

Table 1 below presents the 2024 village fund structure in Manyar Village.

Table 1.

Allocation of Village Funds in Manyar Village (2024)

Allocation Area	Amount (Rp)	Percentage (%)
Development Infrastructure	420,000,000	44.5
Empowerment Programs	160,000,000	16.9
Community Health & Sanitation	125,000,000	13.2
Education & Training	100,000,000	10.6
Administrative Support	138,666,000	14.7
Total	943,666,000	100

Source: Field Data, APBDes Manyar Village 2024.

The table indicates that the largest portion of the funds was allocated to infrastructure, followed by community empowerment and administrative support. However, based on interviews with local stakeholders, particularly members of farmer groups, it was revealed that although the APBDes is publicly displayed, there is minimal opportunity for villagers, especially farmer groups, to be involved in the budget planning process.

¹⁰ Sopanah, “Ceremonial Budgeting: Public Participation in Development Planning at an Indonesian Local Government Authority,” *Journal of Applied Management Accounting Research* 10, no. 2 (2017): 69–80.

¹¹ Indonesia, “Undang-Undang Nomor 6 Tahun 2014 Tentang Desa” (2014).

¹² Indonesia, “Peraturan Menteri Keuangan Nomor 146 Tahun 2023 Tentang Pengalokasian Dana Desa Setiap Desa, Penyaluran, Dan Penggunaan Dana Desa Tahun Anggaran 2024.” (2023).

This contradicts the participatory principle outlined in Article 24 of the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 20 of 2018, which mandates that village fund management must be transparent and participatory.¹³ In theory, according to Eko Prasajo, participatory governance enables communities to take part in decision-making and control over public resources.¹⁴ The lack of active community involvement in Manyar Village suggests a normative compliance but deficient substantive participation.

The Role of Farmer Groups as Informal Anti-Corruption Agents

The empirical findings show that farmer groups in Manyar Village play a significant informal role in monitoring infrastructure projects and reporting discrepancies, even though they are not part of the formal supervisory structures such as the Village Consultative Body (BPD). This aligns with the notion that community-based oversight can act as a deterrent against corrupt practices.

Prabowo et al. (2018) argue that corruption prevention in Indonesia requires not only strong legal enforcement but also bottom-up accountability mechanisms driven by civil society.¹⁵ In the context of village governance, farmer groups represent an example of such mechanisms, contributing to what Dwiputrianti (2018) terms “grassroots integrity systems” where local actors strengthen formal structures through informal monitoring.¹⁶

Comparative Review with Previous Studies and Novel Contributions

Unlike prior research by Vidiputranto, which focused mainly on top-down disbursement mechanisms, this study highlights the grassroots role of farmer groups in ensuring accountability. The novelty lies in recognizing that agricultural collectives, traditionally seen only as production units, can also function as social watchdogs.

This finding resonates with the conclusions of Setyaningrum et al. (2017), who found that community participation significantly influences the effectiveness of village financial accountability in Indonesia.¹⁷ Likewise, Martini (2019) stresses

¹³ Indonesia, “Peraturan Menteri Dalam Negeri Nomor 20 Tahun 2018 Tentang Pengelolaan Keuangan Desa” (2018).

¹⁴ Prasajo, *Desentralisasi Dan Reformasi Tata Kelola Keuangan Daerah*. 183.

¹⁵ Prabowo et al., “Fraud and Corruption in Indonesia: A Critical Evaluation of Recent Developments and Potential Improvements.” 140-150

¹⁶ S Dwiputrianti, “Strengthening Performance-Based Budgeting in Indonesia’s Local Government,” *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management* 30, no. 1 (2018): 72–91.

¹⁷ Setyaningrum, D., R. Wardhani, and D. Martani., “The Effect of Village Fund, Village Fund Allocation and Village Original Income on Village Government Financial Accountability Research,” *Asian Journal of Accounting Research* 2, no. 1 (2017): 43–52.

that the success of anti-corruption measures in local governance depends on empowering informal institutions alongside formal regulatory frameworks¹⁸.

CONCLUSION

This research concludes that while the legal framework regulating the disbursement and use of village funds in Indonesia, particularly in Manyar Village, has been adequately designed to promote transparency, participation, and accountability, its practical implementation often falls short. Procedural compliance exists, but meaningful community involvement remains limited.

The findings show that kelompok tani (farmer groups), despite not having a formal supervisory role, have demonstrated the potential to function as informal guardians of village fund accountability. Their involvement in monitoring infrastructure projects and reporting irregularities contributes to a culture of grassroots-based oversight and can effectively deter corrupt practices. This suggests that empowering and institutionalizing such community-based actors may significantly strengthen preventive mechanisms against corruption in village governance.

Given these insights, future policies should consider formally integrating farmer groups and other local collectives into the participatory and supervisory frameworks of village financial governance. Training and legal literacy programs targeted at these groups could enhance their effectiveness and legitimacy. Moreover, regulatory instruments should be revised to ensure participatory governance moves beyond formality and becomes a practical tool for anti-corruption and rural development.

The research contributes to the discourse on participatory governance by highlighting that effective corruption prevention at the village level is not solely the domain of law enforcement, but also a social process rooted in inclusive community engagement. This paradigm shift is essential in promoting sustainable, transparent, and accountable rural development in Indonesia.

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¹⁸ M. Martini, "Community Engagement in Preventing Corruption at the Local Level: Insights from Indonesia," *U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre Report*, 2019.

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