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Improving accountability of village funds through village financial management based on government accounting standards

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ABSTRACT

The village fund is organized by the government within the framework of fulfilling the ideals of the Indonesian people, namely the existence of equal distribution in each region. The amount of village funds requires the village government to make transparent financial reporting. But not all village governments can manage village funds properly. So there is this dedication to helping the village government make and request financial reports by the standards. This activity is carried out within 2 months with several meetings, each participant will be guided to be able to manage finances so that they can be requested. The object of this research is the village head, village secretary, finance department, and treasurer in Battembat village, Tengah Tani subdistrict, Cirebon. The results of this study indicate that the finance department has been able to make financial records both manually and in systems. Financial information in the financial process into financial reports is sufficient for decision-making material. According to information, this finance section has also been adapted to the siskeudes application which is also supported by the program section.



KEYWORDS Accountability Village fund Village financial report



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1. Introduction

Five years ago, Indonesia supplied the finances of all villages in the country. This began with the mandate of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the end of his term to form a new government, namely village government (Uu, 2014). Since the law was passed, each village has the right to get more attention to stand on its own and no longer rely on local government. This is intended so that the regional autonomy of each village can be increased and the village government along with the villagers are more creative in advancing their respective regions. To realize this success, President Joko Widodo included this plan in the Indonesian Development Nawacita from the periphery. In addition, it is also regulated in PP No. 8 of 2016 which technically discusses Village Fund (some funds specifically provided by the Central Government to all villages in Indonesia). Various efforts have been made by the government by inviting BPKP and academics to facilitate the work of village officials in using wisely and reporting correctly the Village Fund that has been received. One of them is with the Village Financial System (Siskeudes) which can facilitate village officials. The existence of the siskeudes system can facilitate village officials in managing village finances. As some researchers have said, the easier information technology will be the more it encourages a person to continue using the technology [1]–[8]. Unfortunately, several phenomena need to be highlighted, because there are some cases of improper use of Village Fund by village officials that lead to the misuse of Village Fund [9]. This happened in the early days of the receipt of village funds. Then, in addition, despite having been given various training and village assistance, there are still often village officials who do not fully understand how to use siskeudes that have been compiled by the Government and BPK RI [10].



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Following Permendagri No. 113 of 2014 on Village Financial Management and Permendagri No. 1 of 2016 on Village Asset Management, then published Permendagri No. 20 the Year 2018 on Village Financial Management [11]–[13], each village that receives village funds is obliged to deliver village reports (village budget realization reports, activity reports, and notes on financial reports) following government accounting standards. If you do not heed the rule, following Article 21 Permendes, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration (PDTT) Number 11 of 2019 concerning the Priority of The Use of Village Funds in 2020, the officials are subject to administrative sanctions by the provisions of the legislation. Of course, this is the basis of this training, to help village officials in responding to village financial accountability. Through financial training, this devotion is proposed to help village officials better understand the importance of local village financial reporting.

Some villages need more attention and have various obstacles. Based on the results of the research, several problem points are often complained about by village officials [10]; (1) Various village training and mentoring related to the receipt of village funds have been conducted, but applicatively less evenly distributed. This is due to a variety of factors, including the level of education of village officials who are on average only limited to high school / vocational school. This is normal because to be part of the village officers are not required to finish a college-level education; (2) After conducting surveys in various villages, most found that the village officials were old people. In other words, there are very few young officers. This is also an additional factor why most village officials are less proficient in using computer-based Village Financial System (Siskeudes) applications. Admittedly, most older people need more time and effort to be able to smoothly use computer systems than young people; (3) There is a malfunction of the task with the tupoksi (Main Duties and Functions). For example, the work of inputting or processing financial data is done by the kaur section of the program. The reason is that financial kaur often have difficulty in using computer systems; (4) The use of the financial system for the village has been required by the central government because, with this system, the work becomes lighter and lowers the level of fraud that occurs in the village. This is a benchmark that, whether or not, village officials should be able to use it. It has also been confirmed that various training has been provided for the village. But it does not matter whether the training is successful or not, which certainly has a big impact on its users.

To solve the problem, various steps are needed to increase the capacity of village officials in Cirebon. One of the efforts that can be done is to carry out financial recording assistance training activities for village officials in Battembat Village, Tengah Tani, Cirebon. Hopefully, this activity can improve the insights and skills of village officials' financial management, thus impacting the increasing financial accountability of villages in Cirebon. The results of this financial recording training activity are expected to make village officials more insightful in terms of recording until they can make financial reports following government accounting standards (PP 71/2010) [14]. This will make it easier for village officials to evaluate the reports presented to stakeholders.

2. Method

Based on the identification process, the problem is still the lack of ability of the target audience in mastering financial reporting. Therefore, the training program to village officials in Battembat Village, Tengah Tani, Cirebon, is carried out as follows:

- Socialization of financial training following government accounting standards.
- Financial recording assistance for village officials with subjects tailored to the conditions and needs of the target audience, in the form of:
- Introduction to basic government accounting
- Discussion of financial reporting issues in various villages
- Organizing discussions
- Preparation of the devotion documentation

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Then, from this training and mentoring, village officials are expected to be able to:

- Have a neater and informative recording according to the needs of users and external parties.
- Able to make informative and accountable financial reports in a simple and easy-to-understand way
 for decision-making for the sake of village accountability.
- The resulting financial reports can be used to evaluate the results of work and to expand the business, if necessary, can be linked to other financial institutions. For example, village development with tourism potential to increase the progress as well as village income.

Monitoring is carried out in conjunction with mentoring activities. As for the evaluation, it is done at the end of the mentoring period. Table 1 here is a description of the monitoring and evaluation design, along with indicators, objectives, and benchmarks of the success of the service program. Monitoring is carried out in conjunction with mentoring activities. As for the evaluation, it is done at the end of the mentoring period. Table 1 here is a description of the monitoring and evaluation design, along with indicators, objectives, and benchmarks of the success of the service program.

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Activity	Implementation	Goal	Criteria
Training	Socialization and	Maintaining the existence, spirit, and	Village officials can distinguish
	Training takes place	enthusiasm of village officials in	transactions in financial posts.
		learning and practicing financial	Village officials can practice
		recording.	directly the financial recording
		This will be different if done after the	process following government
		activity is completed, both in terms of	accounting standards through
		audience enthusiasm, target, time,	the Village Financial System
		and cost.	(Siskeudes)
Monitoring	At the end of the	Assess the process of devotion	Village officials can make
&	mentoring activity	performed whether successful or not.	financial reports
Evaluation		Review the devotion process to see	Financial reports can be used
		its advantages and disadvantages	for the evaluation of the
		from various aspects.	business carried out
			Financial reports can be used
			for decision-making processes
			if they wish to involve other
			financial institutions

Table 1. Benchmarks of the Program Success

3. Results and Discussion

This village is one of 8 (eight) villages in Tengah Tani, Cirebon. During this service, the village was led by a *kuwu* (a special name for the Village Head in Cirebon) named Muhammad Kholid, SH. Under his leadership, the village officials seemed enthusiastic, because the village officers consisted of young people and the elderly. While in some other villages, the officers are more filled by elderly people, so it is not uncommon to have difficulty in operating a new computerized system. The implementation of the service activities is carried out by the schedule set by the Universitas Swadaya Gunung Jati (UGJ), namely from January 2, 2020, to February 27, 2020. From that date, the service in Battembat Village was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020. The determination of the date of this implementation has of course been coordinated with the village device. Following its original purpose, this service is not directed to all village officers but rather focuses on officers dealing with village finances as well as Siskeudes applications. Participants present at the service are based on the following Table 2.

Table 2. Service Participants in Battembat Village

Target Participants	Realized Participants	Participants' Name
Kuwu	Kuwu	Muhammad Kholid, SH
Secretary	Secretary	Sugiarto
Treasurer	Head of Financial Affairs	Qomariyah
Head of Program Affairs	Kadus II	Nurhasanah

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From the participants' data, it appears that the participants are almost on target. However, it is a pity that some are not present, namely the head of progra Body Textm affairs, while his position is one of the main complements of the operation of the Siskeudes 2.0.2 application which significantly continues to be adjusted. The presence of *kuwu*, secretary, and head of financial affairs, actually has enough to meet the target of the implementation of devotion. However, it would be even more perfect if the target suits the needs of devotion. Then, the presence of *Kadus* II has been considered enough to be a witness, as well as increase knowledge in the implementation of devotion. The disadvantage of this devotion is that the service team does not get real information related to Siskeudes application system updates. It is also pointed out by the financial *kaur* that not every time Siskeudes application is used, but only when there are transactions that need to be recorded, then the application is used, which is the frequency of transactions is not a daily activity.



Fig. 1. Implementation of Devotion in Battembat

In Figure 1, participants appear to enjoy the knowledge transfer process. From left to right are *kuwu*, secretary, head of financial affairs, and *kadus* II, while the presenters are on the far right. After the devotional activities are completed, the team evaluates the target or the initial purpose of performing the devotion, with the realization as described in Table 3.

Table 3. Realization of The Target of Service Implementation

Original Goal	Indicator	Realization
Maintaining the existence,	Village officials can distinguish	Before carrying out the service, the team had
spirit, and enthusiasm of	transactions in financial posts	made an initial visit to find out the condition
village officials in learning and practicing financial	Village officials can practice the financial recording process	of the village officer, related to financial recording.
recording.	directly, following government	The head of financial affairs includes a young
This will be different if done after the activity is completed,	accounting standards through the village financial system	man who is also a final-year student at one of the private universities in Cirebon.
both in terms of target	(Siskeudes).	Based on an approach, it is known that the
audience enthusiasm, time,		head of financial affairs has been able to
and cost.		make financial records both manual and
		system.
Assessing the process of devotion performed, whether	Village officials can make financial statements.	The ability of the head of financial affairs in processing financial transactions into
it is successful or not.	Financial statements can be used	financial statements is considered sufficient
Reviewing the devotion	for the evaluation of activities	to be the basis of decision making. According
process to see its advantages	carried out.	to the information, the head of financial
and disadvantages from	Financial statements can be used	affairs has also been able to adapt to the
various aspects.	for decision-making processes if	Siskeudes application, with the help of the
	they wish to involve other	head of program affairs.
	financial institutions.	

The implementation of this devotion is considered to have met the initial target that has been set, although there are shortcomings in the form of a lack of direct monitoring of the input process of financial

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transactions. This is because, at the time of initial confirmation (when meeting), the head of financial affairs can well answer/confirm some questions asked.

4. Conclusion

The process of implementation of devotion is considered sufficient and by the target. Battembat Village device is also able to show good ability in operating Siskeudes. So it is expected that he can take responsibility for the use of village funds, as well as avoid undue things. The 5-year journey is enough to be a place for village officials to always learn how to manage the village, allocate village funds appropriately, and strive for the best for the progress of the village. Financial recording practices are by existing transactions in the village so that they can be compiled into modules that produce output in the form of financial condition reports, budget realization reports, operational reports, cash flows, and capital changes. This module can provide great benefits to the general public to understand the flow/mechanism of village financial reporting. It can also be used as a reference for village government learning in universities, especially in Government Accounting courses.

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