


The Implementation Of The Functions Of The Village Council (BPD) In The Administration Of Village Governance In Situterate Village

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
Keywords: Village Council (BPD), Village Governance, Legislation, Supervision, Public Participation, Bureaucracy.	This study aims to analyze the implementation of the functions of the Village Council (BPD) in the administration of village governance in Situterate Village, Cikande District, Serang Regency. The research method used is qualitative with a descriptive approach, involving in-depth interviews, observations, and document studies. The findings indicate that the understanding of BPD members regarding their duties and functions is still limited, particularly in the areas of legislation and supervision. The level of education and training of BPD members significantly affects the effectiveness of their task performance, with better-educated and trained members demonstrating greater competence in fulfilling their roles. Coordination between BPD and the village government also needs improvement, especially in communication and role clarity. Moreover, public participation in village governance remains low, primarily due to a lack of socialization and transparency in the decision-making process. Bureaucratic complexity and administrative hurdles frequently impede the implementation of BPD work programs. The study suggests enhancing training, education, and coordination, as well as simplifying bureaucracy to support more effective BPD task execution.
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INTRODUCTION

The village is the smallest unit of government within the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, playing a crucial role in community development and welfare. The village is where social interactions and local economic activities occur, making effective village governance essential for achieving national development goals. To enhance village governance and strengthen community participation, the Serang Regency Government issued Regional Regulation (PERDA) No. 09 of 2016 concerning the Village Council (BPD). This regulation aims to provide a clear legal framework for BPD in carrying out its legislative, supervisory, and advocacy functions for the village community (Pahlawan et al., 2020).

The Village Council (BPD) has three primary functions: discussing and agreeing on Village Regulations with the Village Head, accommodating and channeling the aspirations of the village community, and overseeing the performance of the Village Head. The implementation of BPD functions in village governance is expected to strengthen BPD's role, increase transparency, accountability, and community participation in village development.

However, in practice, the implementation of BPD functions faces various challenges. In Situterate Village, Cikande District, Serang Regency, several obstacles affect the effectiveness of BPD's performance. One of the main issues is the limited understanding of BPD members regarding their duties and functions. Many BPD members do not fully understand their roles in village governance, which hinders their ability to effectively carry out their legislative, supervisory, and advocacy functions. This situation is exacerbated by the low level of education and lack of training provided to BPD members (Wahyudi & Wicaksono, 2023).

Human resource limitations also pose a significant problem in the implementation of BPD functions. Many BPD members have a low educational background, making them less capable of performing their duties effectively. Additionally, the lack of technical and financial support from the regency government makes it difficult for BPD to implement the work programs that have been planned. These limitations result in many programs not being carried out as planned and ultimately not achieving the expected goals (Lawn & McMahon, 2015).

Furthermore, poor coordination between BPD and the village government is a major obstacle in the implementation of BPD functions. Poor coordination often leads to miscommunication and conflicts between BPD and the village government, hindering decision-making processes and the implementation of village development programs. The absence of clear mechanisms for resolving conflicts between BPD and the village government further exacerbates the situation (Mada et al., 2017).

Another issue is the lack of community participation in the village governance process. Although one of the main functions of BPD is to accommodate and channel the aspirations of the community, many villagers are unaware of BPD's role and functions. As a result, community involvement in village decision-making processes is low. This low level of participation negatively impacts the transparency and accountability of village governance, as the aspirations and needs of the community are not fully accommodated in the planning and implementation of village development programs (Antlöv et al., 2016).

Additionally, bureaucratic and administrative problems often become obstacles in the implementation of BPD functions. Complex administrative processes and bureaucratic red tape frequently hinder the execution of BPD work programs. The lack of effective monitoring and evaluation systems also leads to many programs not being implemented according to the established standards. Consequently, the goals of BPD functions to improve village governance are not optimally achieved (Septiningrum et al., 2024).

This study aims to analyze the implementation of BPD functions in village governance in Situterate Village, Serang Regency. The research focuses on the extent to which BPD functions are applied, the challenges faced, and their impact on the performance of the Village Council (BPD) and village governance as a whole. Thus, this study is expected to provide constructive recommendations for improving the effectiveness of BPD function implementation and strengthening village governance (Sakir & Humairah Almahdali, 2024).

Literatur Review

Implementation of policy is one of the crucial aspects in achieving public policy objectives. The success of a policy not only depends on the quality of the policy itself but also on how the policy is implemented. Factors such as communication, resource availability, implementers' attitudes, and bureaucratic structure play significant roles in this process. Effective communication between policymakers and policy implementers is essential to ensure that the objectives and instructions of the policy are clearly understood by all parties involved. Without clear communication, even well-designed policies may fail to be implemented effectively. In addition, the availability of adequate resources—including financial, human, and material resources—is also a key factor. This availability enables policy implementers to carry out the planned programs effectively, while proper distribution of these resources ensures that the policy can be implemented evenly and efficiently (Arifathyani, 2023).

In the context of village governance, particularly regarding the Village Council (BPD), the understanding of BPD members about their duties and functions is crucial. The BPD has three main functions: discussing and agreeing on village regulations with the village head, accommodating and channeling the aspirations of the village community, and overseeing the performance of the village head. A deep understanding of these roles and responsibilities enables BPD members to operate more effectively and efficiently, ensuring that they can carry out their legislative, supervisory, and advocacy functions properly. Furthermore, a clear understanding of these roles also helps to strengthen coordination between the BPD and the village government, ultimately enhancing accountability in the performance of their duties. When BPD members have a solid understanding of their roles, they are better prepared to make appropriate and responsible decisions in carrying out their tasks (Bovens, 2007).

The level of education and training of BPD members also significantly influences their capacity to perform these tasks. Adequate education provides a strong knowledge base for BPD members, while continuous training ensures that they remain up-to-date with the latest developments in relevant regulations and policies. Training not only enhances technical skills but also helps BPD members develop critical thinking abilities and make better decisions. This is particularly important in the context of their roles, which involve legislative processes, supervision, and problem-solving that is often complex at the village level. Therefore, well-designed education and training programs are essential to ensure that BPD members possess the necessary competencies to effectively perform their duties (Watson, 2018).

Additionally, good coordination between the BPD and the village government is a key element in the successful implementation of policies at the village level. Effective coordination requires clear and open communication between both parties, which not only helps to avoid misunderstandings but also ensures that each party has a shared understanding of the village policy objectives and priorities. Clarity in roles and responsibilities is also important to ensure that there is no overlap of duties or conflicts of interest, which could hinder the implementation of village programs. Thus, good coordination significantly contributes to the efficiency and effectiveness of policy implementation at the local level, where the BPD serves

as a supervisor and facilitator in the decision-making and policy implementation processes (Ross, 2021).

Community participation is also an important element in good village governance. Involvement of the community in decision-making processes increases transparency and accountability and ensures that the policies produced are more aligned with the needs and aspirations of the local community. Effective participation can be achieved through proper socialization and education about the role of the BPD and the importance of community participation in village governance. When the community understands their role and how they can be involved in governance processes, they are more likely to participate actively, which ultimately strengthens the legitimacy of policies and supports more effective implementation. Therefore, increasing community participation not only enriches the decision-making process but also helps create a more responsive and accountable village government (Cornwall, 2017)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Understanding of BPD Members Regarding Their Duties and Functions

The understanding of Village Council (BPD) members regarding their duties and functions plays a crucial role in the effectiveness of village governance. Based on interviews and observations conducted in Situterate Village, it was found that most BPD members have a basic understanding of their roles, such as discussing and agreeing on village regulations and channeling community aspirations. However, their understanding of more complex functions such as legislation and supervision remains limited. Only about 40% of BPD members demonstrated a deep understanding of legislative mechanisms, while the rest struggled to effectively perform these functions, particularly in overseeing the policies implemented by the village government.

Further analysis reveals that the lack of training and socialization provided to BPD members is a major factor contributing to this limited understanding. BPD members with higher educational backgrounds or who have undergone training related to their duties tend to have a better understanding and are more effective in performing their roles. Conversely, members with lower educational backgrounds and without sufficient training tend to be passive and have difficulty understanding and performing more complex tasks. This indicates the need for capacity-building through structured and continuous training programs for all BPD members, so they can perform their legislative and supervisory functions more effectively.

Moreover, the study found significant differences in the effectiveness of task performance between BPD members who have a good understanding of their duties and those who do not. Members with a solid understanding are more proactive in conveying community aspirations and are more critical in reviewing policies proposed by the village government. They are also better able to identify potential issues in the proposed policies and provide constructive feedback for improvement. In contrast, members who lack a proper understanding of their duties tend to accept the proposed policies without much questioning or criticism, which can negatively impact the quality of the policies produced.

The Impact of Education and Training Levels on the Effectiveness of BPD Members

The level of education and training received by BPD members significantly influences their effectiveness in carrying out their duties. According to the data collected, BPD members with at least a high school education demonstrated a better ability to understand and perform legislative and supervisory functions. Of the 15 BPD members surveyed, 10 had at least a high school education and exhibited higher participation in village meetings and a greater ability to propose constructive suggestions and criticisms.

Training also plays a crucial role in enhancing the capacity of BPD members. Members who have undergone training related to village governance and BPD functions are more confident in performing their duties and are more proactive in participating in village decision-making processes. The training provided covers topics such as legislative processes, supervision techniques, and how to channel community aspirations. Interviews revealed that members who have received this training are more confident in carrying out their duties and more proactive in participating in village decision-making processes.

Conversely, members who lack adequate educational backgrounds or who have not received sufficient training tend to struggle in understanding their tasks, particularly those related to legislative and supervisory functions. They often feel confused by the procedures they need to follow and are less confident in providing opinions or criticism regarding proposed policies. This highlights the urgent need to improve access to education and training for all BPD members, especially those with lower educational backgrounds. By doing so, they can play a more active role in the legislative and supervisory processes, ultimately improving the quality of village governance.

Coordination Between BPD and Village Government

Coordination between BPD and the village government is essential for ensuring the smooth and effective implementation of village programs. However, the study found that coordination between BPD and the village government in Situterate Village still faces several challenges. One of the main issues identified is the lack of effective communication between the two parties. Interviews with BPD members and village government officials revealed that information about village policies and programs is often not fully conveyed to BPD. This results in BPD being unable to fully exercise its oversight function.

For example, several BPD members reported that they often learn about certain policies only after they have been implemented. This situation deprives them of the opportunity to provide input or conduct proper oversight before the policies are enacted. On the other hand, village government officials feel that BPD is not proactive enough in requesting information or participating in meetings that discuss village policies. Such miscommunication can hinder policy implementation and reduce the effectiveness of BPD's oversight role.

In addition to communication issues, the lack of clarity in roles and responsibilities between BPD and the village government also poses a challenge in coordination. Some BPD members stated that they are not always sure about what their responsibilities are in terms of oversight and legislation, which often leads to overlapping tasks with the village government. To address this issue, greater efforts are needed to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each party and to develop better coordination mechanisms. One solution

could be to hold regular coordination meetings where both parties can exchange information and discuss policies to be implemented. This would help improve coordination between BPD and the village government, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of village policy implementation.

Community Participation in Village Governance

Community participation is a crucial component of democratic and accountable village governance. The study found that the level of community participation in Situterate Village remains relatively low. Many community members are unaware of BPD's role and functions, leading to their lack of involvement in village decision-making processes. According to the survey, only about 30% of respondents felt that they understood the role of BPD and were involved in the village's policymaking process.

This lack of participation is due to several factors, including the limited socialization about BPD's role to the community. Many villagers do not receive sufficient information on how they can participate in village governance, leading them to believe that their opinions will not be heard or considered. Additionally, complex bureaucracy and a lack of transparency in the decision-making process also act as barriers to community participation. Villagers often feel that the process is too complicated or opaque, making them reluctant to get involved.

To increase community participation, more intensive efforts are needed to socialize the role of BPD and the importance of community involvement in village decision-making processes. This can be done through various means, such as community meetings, the dissemination of information through local media, or the use of information technology to spread information more widely. Furthermore, the village government and BPD need to create more inclusive and transparent mechanisms in the decision-making process, so that the community feels that their voices are being heard and considered. With higher community participation, it is hoped that policies will better reflect the needs and aspirations of the community, ultimately increasing the legitimacy and effectiveness of these policies.

Bureaucracy and Administration in the Implementation of BPD Work Programs

Efficient bureaucracy and administration are crucial elements in the implementation of BPD work programs. However, the study found that complex bureaucracy and convoluted administrative processes often hinder the implementation of programs in Situterate Village. Several BPD members reported that they often face difficulties in understanding and carrying out the administrative procedures required to implement village programs. These complex administrative processes not only slow down the implementation of programs but also frequently lead to errors in reporting and managing village funds.

Additionally, the lack of technical support and training in administration also poses a major challenge. BPD members who do not have a background or experience in administration often feel overwhelmed by the administrative tasks they are required to perform. This indicates an urgent need to enhance the administrative capacity of BPD members through better training and technical support. One solution could be to develop a simpler and easier-to-understand administrative system, which would help BPD members carry out their administrative tasks more efficiently.

The use of information technology can also be an effective way to improve the efficiency of administration and reporting. By utilizing an integrated village information management system, BPD can manage data and reporting more effectively and accurately. This would not only reduce administrative errors but also increase transparency and accountability in the management of village funds. Ross, (2021) emphasize that information technology can be a highly effective tool in enhancing the efficiency and accuracy of administration, ultimately supporting the overall performance of BPD tasks.

CONCLUSION

This study indicates that the implementation of the functions of the Village Council (BPD) in Situterate Village continues to face various challenges. The understanding of BPD members regarding their duties and functions, particularly in terms of legislation and supervision, remains limited, largely due to a lack of training and socialization. The level of education and training received by BPD members significantly affects the effectiveness of their task performance, with better-educated and trained members demonstrating higher competence in fulfilling their roles. Additionally, the coordination between BPD and the village government needs to be improved, given the communication challenges and role ambiguity that hinder the implementation of village programs. Community participation in village governance is also low, due to minimal socialization and a lack of transparency in the decision-making process. To enhance the effectiveness of BPD, there needs to be an improvement in understanding, education, training, and better coordination between BPD and the village government. Furthermore, increasing community participation and simplifying bureaucracy and administration are key to supporting the more efficient implementation of BPD work programs. By addressing these challenges, it is expected that BPD can play a more optimal role in supporting village governance that is more transparent, accountable, and responsive to the needs of the community.

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