

Analysis of the Effectiveness of Village Fund Allocation to Improve Community Welfare in Mawu Village, Ambalawi District, Bima Regency

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the effectiveness of Village Fund allocation in promoting community welfare improvement in Mawu Village, Ambalawi District, Bima Regency. This research employed a qualitative approach with a case study design. The research data were obtained through participatory observation, in-depth interviews with purposively selected informants, and documentation studies. The informants in this study included the Village Head, Village Secretary, Village Treasurer, members of the Village Consultative Body (BPD), community leaders, and residents who benefited from Village Fund programs. Meanwhile, the documents reviewed included the Village Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBDes), the Village Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMDes), the Village Government Work Plan (RKPDDes), and reports on the realization of Village Fund utilization. The results of the study show that Village Fund allocation in Mawu Village was implemented through three main stages: planning, implementation, and accountability. The realization of the Village Fund in 2024 and 2025 reached 100%, indicating that budget absorption was effective. The impact of Village Fund allocation on community welfare can be seen in the improvement of basic infrastructure, such as village roads, drainage systems, clean water facilities, and public street lighting, as well as in the strengthening of community participation and social cooperation. However, economic empowerment programs still need to be strengthened so that the use of Village Funds does not only focus on physical development but also supports sustainable income growth and community economic independence.

INTRODUCTION

A decent life is a primary need for every individual so that they can live normally, with dignity, and have their physical and spiritual needs met. However, efforts to achieve better living conditions are not an easy matter, because they are influenced by various factors such as social and economic conditions, availability of infrastructure, and community capabilities.

In this case, the village government plays an important role in encouraging improvements in community conditions through the implementation of planned development, involving citizen participation, and being oriented towards sustainability. At the village level, the existence of Village Funds and Village Fund Allocations is an important means to accelerate development, increase community empowerment, and encourage the achievement of village community welfare. Sasongko stated that village financing policies are aimed at promoting community welfare, improving quality of life, and reducing poverty. Meanwhile, Hardianto argued that the existence of Village Funds and Village Fund Allocations contributes to strengthening community empowerment and reducing poverty levels in rural areas (Sasongko, 2019).

One of the primary concerns of economic development in Indonesia is improving people's standard of living through equitable distribution of development and its outcomes. This effort is carried out through sectoral development policies and strengthening the role of communities, particularly in rural areas. (Nirmala et al., 2025) . In this context, village development is not only viewed as an object of development, but also as part of a community movement that positions residents as the primary actors in the development process. The implementation of this development is based on a shared awareness of the need to improve the lives of the community.

Village development should not only be oriented towards the development of facilities and infrastructure, but should also be directed towards strengthening the community's capabilities so that they can be actively involved in every stage of development. Therefore, community empowerment is an important aspect, because the local potential that the village has, both in the form of human resources and natural resources, is the basic capital in improving the social and economic conditions of the community. In her research, Endah explains that community empowerment can be carried out by developing the potential of individuals and groups so that they are able to improve their social and economic living conditions. Meanwhile, Suratmoko stated that low community involvement can hinder the equitable distribution of development outcomes in villages. Therefore, the management of Village Funds and Village Fund Allocations must be implemented transparently, involving the community, and tailored to the actual needs of the village so that development outcomes can be directly felt by the community (Endah & Galuh, 2020).

Based on Minister of Finance Regulation Number 241 of 2014, Village Funds are funds originating from the State Budget (APBN) and distributed through the district/city Regional Budget (APBD). These funds are used to support village governance, development implementation, and community development. Village Funds are a crucial aspect of the Village Law because their allocation is calculated based on the number of villages, taking into account population, poverty levels, area size, and geographic difficulty. This mechanism aims to improve community welfare and encourage equitable development within villages. (Turere et al., 2019).

Village development positions communities as both the primary subjects and actors in the development process, driven by a commitment to achieving a better life. Given that the majority of Indonesia's population still lives in rural areas, village development is a crucial component of the national development strategy. These efforts are aimed at improving equitable development and its outcomes through sectoral policies and strengthening the role of communities, particularly in villages. With their large populations and potential natural resources, villages have the opportunity to optimize development through funding support, one of which is the Village Fund Allocation (Pancasari Kusumawardani & Dien Alfiyah, 2022).

According to Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, a village is defined as a legal community unit with defined territorial boundaries and the authority to regulate and manage government affairs and the interests of the local community. This authority is based on community initiative, ancestral rights, and/or traditional rights recognized and respected within the government system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. (Nisya Agniya Rahmah et al., 2021).

Village Fund Allocation is budget support provided by the government to villages, derived from a portion of regional tax revenues and balanced funds between the central and regional governments. According to its implementation guidelines, one use of Village Fund Allocation is to support village development. However, in practice, the aspect of community empowerment often receives insufficient attention from village governments. According to Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 114 concerning Village Development, community empowerment can be directed at various groups, such as farmer groups, artisan groups, women's groups, and other community groups according to the social and cultural conditions of the village community (Marviana & Barus, 2022).

Village funds allocated for village development are basically aimed at improving community welfare, improving quality of life, and helping reduce poverty. Meanwhile, the use of Village Funds for community empowerment is aimed at strengthening residents' abilities to develop businesses, increase income, and expand economic activities, both individually and in groups. These community empowerment programs cover various areas, such as infrastructure development, health, community economics, technology, education, and other areas that support village progress (Priyanti et al., 2023).

Community welfare is one of the main targets that every region wants to achieve, including villages in West Nusa Tenggara Regency, one of which is Mawu Village, Ambalawi District. Various development programs and policies are designed and implemented by local governments with the aim of encouraging regional growth. This growth is expected to have a positive impact on improving the welfare of the local community.

Community welfare can be understood as a state in which residents' basic needs are met and their quality of life improves in various areas, such as economic, health, education, social, and environmental well-being. In Mawu Village, Ambalawi District, Bima Regency, the level

of community welfare can be seen from the increase in family income, particularly among farmers, fishermen, and small business owners. This condition is characterized by increased production, relatively stable selling prices, and open access to capital and markets. From a health perspective, well-being is reflected in the availability of integrated health posts (Posyandu) and community health centers (Puskesmas), reduced cases of infectious diseases, the fulfillment of nutritional needs for toddlers, the availability of clean water, and a healthier environment. In the field of education, well-being is evident in the increased participation of school-age children, the decline in dropout rates, and the availability of adequate educational facilities. Meanwhile, social well-being is evident in harmonious relationships between residents, a strong spirit of mutual cooperation, high community involvement in village deliberations, social activities, and development programs, and the creation of a safe and low-conflict living atmosphere. In addition, infrastructure development and environmental planning, such as village roads, drainage, clean water facilities, and public street lighting, are also important measures in improving well-being because they can support economic activities, facilitate access to education and health, and create a more orderly, clean, safe, and comfortable village environment for the community.

Geographically, this research was conducted in Mawu Village, Ambalawi District, Bima Regency. The location was chosen based on the consideration that Mawu Village has various community development and empowerment programs relevant to study, particularly in assessing the effectiveness of their implementation.

This research focuses on two main aspects: the effectiveness of Village Fund allocation as the independent variable and the improvement of community welfare as the dependent variable. Normatively, the management of Village Funds has been regulated in Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, which affirms that villages have the authority to regulate and manage the interests of their communities based on the principles of transparency, accountability, participation, and budgetary order and discipline. However, in its implementation at the village level, this policy still often faces various obstacles, such as the limited capacity of village government officials in determining development priorities effectively, low community involvement in monitoring village policies, and the tendency for budget use to be more dominant in physical development rather than sustainable community empowerment programs.

Previous research conducted in Baun Bango Village, Kamipang District, Katingan Regency, focused more on analyzing the influence of Village Fund Allocation on community welfare. The study used a quantitative approach with multiple regression analysis techniques to test whether Village Fund Allocation, as the independent variable, significantly impacted the welfare of the village community, as the dependent variable. The research findings indicate that Village Fund Allocation has a significant influence on improving community welfare. (Kusumawardani, 2022). Unlike those studies, this study not only examines the relationships or influences between variables but also examines the effectiveness of Village

Fund allocation in improving community welfare in Mawu Village, Ambalawi District, Bima Regency. Therefore, this study focuses more on program implementation, the accuracy of budget use, and the perceived impact of the development and empowerment programs on the community.

In addition, Telaumbanua and Ziliwu also conducted research on the impact of Village Fund Allocation management on improving community welfare in Lasara Sowu Village, North Gunungsitoli District. (Telaumbanua & Ziliwu, 2022) . This study used a descriptive qualitative approach, with data collection and analysis techniques including interviews, documentation, data reduction, interpretation, and triangulation. The results indicate that the management of Village Fund Allocations has had a positive impact on infrastructure development, health services, and housing improvements. However, improvements in education and community income have not been fully achieved due to budget constraints.

This research is necessary because the allocation of Village Funds in Mawu Village, Ambalawi District, Bima Regency, requires in-depth analysis to determine its level of effectiveness in improving community welfare. Ideally, Village Funds should not only be focused on physical development, but also directed towards programs that directly meet community needs, such as economic strengthening, improving health services, education, community empowerment, and improving infrastructure and the environment. In its implementation, the Village Fund policy still has the potential to face various obstacles, such as programs that are not fully targeted, low community involvement, weak supervision, and suboptimal empowerment programs. Therefore, this research is important as a form of evaluation of the effectiveness of Village Fund allocation, as well as to identify the benefits that have been received by the community and provide recommendations to the village government so that Village Fund management can be carried out in a more transparent, participatory, targeted, and oriented towards improving community welfare in a sustainable manner.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research employs a qualitative approach with a case study approach, conducted in Mawu Village, Ambalawi District, Bima Regency. This approach was used to gain a deeper understanding of the effectiveness of Village Fund allocation in promoting community welfare. The research focuses on the planning process, budget allocation, program implementation, transparency, accountability, and the impact of Village Fund utilization on the social and economic conditions of the village community.

The data sources in this study include primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected through participant observation and in-depth interviews with purposively selected informants, namely the Village Head, Village Secretary, Village Treasurer, BPD members, community leaders, and residents who benefited from the Village Fund program. Secondary data were obtained through document review, such as the Village Budget (APBDes), Village Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMDes), Village Work Plan (RKPDDes), Village Fund

realization reports, village profiles, laws and regulations, and various official publications relevant to the research focus.

The primary instrument in this study was the researcher herself, supported by interview guidelines, observation guidelines, documentation guidelines, and field notes. The data obtained were analyzed qualitatively through several stages: data reduction, data presentation, conclusion drawing, and verification. To ensure data validity, this study employed extended observation, increased persistence, source triangulation, technical triangulation, time triangulation, and member checking with informants. These steps were taken to ensure the research results had a good level of validity and could be academically accounted for.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of Village Fund Allocation in Mawu Village, Ambalawi District Reviewed from the Aspects of Planning, Implementation, and Accountability

The research results show that the allocation of Village Funds in Mawu Village is carried out through three main stages: planning, implementation, and accountability. In the planning stage, the village government formulates programs through a village deliberation forum involving village officials, the Village Consultative Body (BPD), community leaders, and community representatives. Based on interviews with village government elements, the Village Fund planning process begins with mapping community needs, which are then formulated into village planning documents, such as the RPJMDes, RKPDes, and APBDes. Some of the dominant needs expressed in the forum include village road repairs, drainage construction, provision of clean water facilities, public street lighting, health activities, and support for community empowerment programs. These findings indicate that Village Fund planning in Mawu Village has been directed towards participatory principles, although community involvement in the planning process is still not fully equitable.

Table 1. Effectiveness of Village Fund allocation

| Year | Village Fund Target (Rp) | Village Fund Realization (Rp) | Effectiveness ratio (%) | Criteria |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 2024 | 1,141,956,503 | 1,141,956,503 | 100% | Effective |
| 2025 | 1,057,721,000 | 1,057,721,000 | 100% | Effective |
| Total | 2,199,677,503 | 2,199,677,503 | 100% | Effective |

Processed data source : 2026

Based on Table 1, the realization of Village Funds in Mawu Village in 2024 and 2025 reached 100% of the established budget target. This condition indicates that the entire available budget was successfully absorbed with no remaining funds. With a ratio of 100%, the realization of Village Funds in both years is categorized as effective according to the assessment criteria used. Overall, of the total budget of Rp2,199,677,503, all funds have been realized. This indicates that the management of Village Funds in Mawu Village has been running according to the established plan, with no shortages or excesses in budget absorption.

Interviews with BPD members indicate that the BPD plays a role in gathering community aspirations and overseeing village budget policies. However, some beneficiary communities reported that they did not fully understand the details of budget utilization, as the information they received was still general in nature. Observation findings also revealed that information related to development activities had been disseminated through village forums and, in part, through information boards, but its dissemination had not yet fully reached all levels of society. This indicates that the principle of transparency has begun to be implemented, but still needs to be improved through more open, simple, easy-to-understand information delivery and ongoing implementation.

During the implementation phase, the Village Fund utilization in Mawu Village has been predominantly directed toward physical development, particularly the construction and improvement of basic infrastructure directly related to community needs. Based on interviews with residents, the construction of neighborhood roads, drainage, clean water facilities, and public street lighting has been deemed to provide tangible benefits by facilitating community activities, reducing the risk of flooding, and improving the comfort of the village environment. Field observations also support these findings, as evidenced by the number of village facilities that have been built and utilized by the community. However, community economic empowerment programs, such as entrepreneurship training, strengthening MSMEs, fostering farmer groups, and expanding marketing access, still need to be improved so that the Village Fund not only impacts physical development but also strengthens the community's economic capacity in a sustainable manner. This finding is in line with the opinion of Sulistyowati & Nataliawati, (2022) which states that accountability, transparency, and community involvement are the main elements in the financial management of Village Funds . Nurfitri, (2023) also revealed that transparency, accountability, and community participation have an important influence on the management of Village Fund Allocations.

Effectiveness of Village Fund Allocation in Supporting Community Development and Empowerment in Mawu Village, Ambalawi District

In this study, the effectiveness of Village Fund allocation was assessed based on several indicators, namely targeting accuracy, program suitability to community needs, goal achievement, resulting benefits, and the program's ability to support community development and empowerment. Based on interviews with the village government, the use of Village Funds has been directed to needs considered a priority by the community, particularly the development of basic infrastructure and social services. The implemented programs were deemed quite helpful because they were directly related to community needs, such as road access, drainage, clean water, street lighting, and community activities. From the theory of effectiveness, a program can be said to be effective if the planned objectives can be achieved and its benefits are felt by the target group. Therefore, the allocation of Village Funds in Mawu Village can be considered quite effective in supporting basic development at the village level.

However, the effectiveness of Village Fund allocation cannot be considered fully optimal from the perspective of sustainable community empowerment. Interviews with several residents revealed that while they have benefited from physical development, they still desire programs that more directly boost income, such as skills training, assistance with MSME development, strengthening farmer and fisherman groups, and assistance in marketing local products. Observations also show that community empowerment activities are not as robust as infrastructure development. This situation suggests that the use of Village Funds is still predominantly oriented toward physical development, while community economic empowerment programs need to be improved to ensure their benefits are felt more sustainably.

This finding is in line with Marviana's research, (2022) which explains that Village Fund Allocation plays a crucial role in supporting village development and community empowerment activities. However, its successful management depends not only on budget availability but also on the extent to which the programs implemented meet community needs, are well-targeted, and actively involve the community at every stage of development. Mulyana Research, (2024) also explained that the effectiveness of the use of Village Funds in community development and empowerment can be assessed from the extent to which community aspirations are involved, the benefits of the program felt by residents, and the sustainability of the program being implemented. Meanwhile, Rahmalia, (2025) revealed that the effectiveness of Village Fund utilization still has the potential to experience various obstacles, such as limited budget, less than optimal transparency, and low community involvement in the program management and implementation process. Thus, the effectiveness of Village Fund management in Mawu Village still needs to be improved through better quality planning, more open information delivery, strengthening the role of the community in supervision, and balancing physical infrastructure development and community economic empowerment programs.

From the perspective of community empowerment theory, village development is not only understood as a process of providing benefits to the community, but must also position the community as the main subject and actor in every stage of development. Endah & Galuh, (2020) states that community empowerment can be achieved by identifying and developing local village potential, enabling the community to improve its well-being. This view aligns with the situation in Mawu Village, which boasts potential in the agriculture, fisheries, and small business sectors. Therefore, the effectiveness of Village Fund allocation will be optimal if physical development is not a stand-alone initiative but is accompanied by empowerment programs that can increase the community's capacity, skills, productivity, and economic independence. Study Jati et al., (2024) also emphasized that the management of Village Funds in community empowerment activities should be directed at programs that can increase the capacity of residents, so that it is not only limited to fulfilling administrative aspects.

The Impact of Village Fund Allocation on Improving Community Welfare in Mawu Village, Ambalawi District

The allocation of Village Funds has contributed to improving the welfare of the people of Mawu Village, particularly in the economic, social, and infrastructure development sectors. In the economic sector, the most visible impact is the smoother community activities resulting from improvements to basic infrastructure. Based on interviews with residents, improved village roads have made it easier for residents to access agricultural land, markets, schools, health facilities, and village activity centers. For small business owners, adequate road access and environmental lighting have also facilitated the smooth movement of goods and business activities. However, the increase in community income has not been felt evenly because productive economic empowerment programs still need to be strengthened. Thus, the Village Fund has had an indirect economic impact through increased accessibility, while the direct impact on increasing community income still requires more planned and targeted programs.

From a social perspective, the use of Village Funds in Mawu Village has contributed to increased community participation and cooperation, particularly through village deliberations, mutual cooperation, and the implementation of development programs. Interviews with community leaders revealed that community involvement in various village activities strengthens social ties, fosters a sense of togetherness, and fosters community awareness of the development outcomes. Field observations also indicate that the community not only utilizes the facilities that have been built but also participates in maintaining them to ensure their continued use. However, community involvement in budget oversight still needs to be strengthened, so that community participation extends beyond the program proposal and implementation stages to include evaluation and control processes.

These findings are in line with research Husna & Rahayu, (2023) stated that accountability, transparency, and community involvement have a positive influence in supporting the management of Village Fund Allocations. Additionally, Bilatula et al., (2023) stated that community involvement and monitoring mechanisms have a positive contribution in supporting the management of Village Funds in line with the principles of good governance. This finding was also strengthened by Potolau et al., (2024) which explains that village deliberations serve as a forum for community participation in planning Village Fund programs. Meanwhile, the monitoring process needs to involve the community, village officials, and relevant institutions to ensure more transparent and accountable Village Fund management. Thus, increasing community involvement in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation stages is important so that the management of Village Funds in Mawu Village can be more open, accountable, and truly in accordance with community needs.

In terms of infrastructure, the use of Village Funds has had a significant impact on improving basic village facilities, such as the construction of neighborhood roads, drainage, clean water facilities, and public street lighting. These facilities provide direct benefits to the

community by facilitating access to education, health care, and economic activities, while also improving the comfort and safety of the village environment. These findings are in line with research Telaumbanua & Ziliwu (2022) explain that the management of Village Fund Allocations contributes to improving infrastructure, healthcare, and community housing conditions. However, its impact on improving education and community income has not been fully achieved. Kusumawardani's research , (2022) The study also shows that Village Fund Allocation has a significant impact on improving the welfare of rural communities. This comparison confirms that Village Funds can serve as a strategic instrument in promoting community welfare, but their success depends heavily on the accuracy of program targeting, the quality of implementation, and the sustainability of activities.

In general, the research results show that the allocation of Village Funds in Mawu Village has had a positive impact on village development and improving community welfare, particularly through the provision of basic infrastructure and strengthening social services. However, this improvement in welfare has not been fully maximized because community economic empowerment programs have not been implemented in a balanced manner with physical development. Therefore, Village Fund management needs to be directed towards a more integrated development pattern, namely by combining infrastructure development, community economic empowerment, citizen capacity building, budget information transparency, and monitoring involving community participation. Through this approach, Village Funds can not only produce physical infrastructure but also encourage economic independence and improve the community's quality of life in a sustainable manner.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the results of research and discussions regarding the effectiveness of Village Fund allocation in improving community welfare in Mawu Village, Ambalawi District, Bima Regency, it can be concluded that Village Fund management is carried out through three main stages: planning, implementation, and accountability. The realization of the Village Fund budget in 2024 and 2025 reached 100%, thus indicating that fund absorption has been running effectively. The allocation of Village Funds is considered quite good in supporting the development of basic infrastructure, such as village roads, drainage, clean water facilities, and public street lighting that provide direct benefits to the community. However, this effectiveness has not been fully optimized in terms of economic empowerment, as the programs implemented have focused more on physical development than on productive activities that could sustainably increase community income and economic independence. The impact of Village Fund allocation is evident in increased community accessibility, strengthened social participation and cooperation , and improved village environmental comfort. However, the increase in community income has not been felt evenly. Therefore, Village Fund management needs to be directed in a more integrated manner by balancing infrastructure development and economic empowerment programs, as well as strengthening transparency, accountability, and community participation in every stage of its management.

It is recommended that the Mawu Village government direct the allocation of Village Funds in a more balanced manner between physical development and community economic empowerment programs. Furthermore, transparency in budget use needs to be improved, and community participation must be strengthened in every stage of Village Fund management. The community is also expected to play a more active role in village deliberations, monitoring program implementation, and maintaining constructed facilities, as well as utilizing empowerment programs as a means to increase income. The Bima Regency Government needs to provide ongoing technical assistance and conduct regular monitoring to ensure that Village Fund utilization is more targeted and provides optimal impact. For future researchers, it is recommended to use a quantitative or mixed-methods approach, expand research locations, and examine factors that support and hinder the success of Village Fund-based community empowerment programs.

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