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The Effect of Village Fund Utilization on Infrastructure and Economic Activities in Rensing Village in Supporting Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8)

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the effect of Village Fund utilization on infrastructure development and community economic activities in Rensing Village in supporting the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8. This study employed a quantitative approach with an explanatory research design. The sample consisted of 94 respondents selected using purposive sampling. Data were collected through questionnaires, observation, and documentation. The research instrument was declared valid and reliable, with a Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.659. Since some of the data were not normally distributed, hypothesis testing was conducted using the non-parametric Kruskal–Wallis test. The results showed that Village Fund utilization had a significant effect on infrastructure development, with a significance value of 0.048, and on community economic activities, with a significance value of 0.023. Village Fund utilization through road construction, irrigation, public facilities, and economic empowerment programs contributed to improved accessibility, productivity, employment opportunities, and community income. Therefore, effective Village Fund utilization plays an important role in promoting inclusive and sustainable village economic development and supporting the achievement of SDG 8.

Keywords: **Village Fund, Village Infrastructure, Economic Activities, Sustainable Development, SDG 8.**

INTRODUCTION

Rural development is one of the main pillars in achieving equitable national development, considering that a large proportion of Indonesia's territory is still dominated by rural areas with diverse natural, social, and economic resources (Mayasari et al., 2022). The enactment of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages marked an important milestone in strengthening village autonomy by granting village governments broader authority to independently manage local potential, including village financial management (Gatot, 2025). One form of implementation of this policy is the allocation of Village Funds sourced from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBN) as an instrument to improve the quality of development, strengthen the community's economy, and reduce development disparities between rural and urban areas.

Village Funds are considered a fiscal instrument capable of accelerating rural development when managed effectively, transparently, and participatively (Liani et al., 2024).

Along with the increasing allocation of Village Funds each year, the government has positioned rural development as an important component of achieving sustainable national development (Handraini et al., 2024). The utilization of Village Funds is no longer focused solely on physical infrastructure development but is also directed toward supporting community empowerment, improving the quality of public services, developing micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and strengthening local potential based creative industries (Khotimah, 2025). This approach indicates that rural development should not be measured solely by the availability of physical facilities but also by the extent to which community capacity increases in developing productive economic activities capable of generating sustainable welfare (Kamuli et al., 2023).

Village infrastructure development is one of the main priorities in the utilization of Village Funds because it is closely associated with increased community productivity (Maitala, 2024). Infrastructure such as village roads, irrigation networks, clean water facilities, health facilities, village markets, and educational facilities constitutes an important prerequisite for the development of both social and economic activities within rural communities (Sesa & Kodrat, 2023). Adequate infrastructure can reduce distribution costs, facilitate population mobility, improve access to public services, and create opportunities for investment and new businesses in rural areas. Therefore, infrastructure development not only provides short-term benefits through the availability of public facilities but also serves as a long-term investment that promotes sustainable local economic growth (Jannah & Kurniati, 2025).

On the other hand, the success of Village Fund utilization is also highly determined by the capacity of village governments to allocate budgets toward community economic empowerment programs. Various activities, such as entrepreneurship training, business capital assistance, strengthening Badan Usaha Milik Desa (BUMDes), MSME development, and capacity building for farmer groups, represent forms of Village Fund utilization aimed at creating economically independent rural communities (Rahman et al., 2024). These programs are expected to increase community income, expand employment opportunities, reduce poverty, and strengthen the competitiveness of the village economy. The success of such empowerment initiatives is strongly influenced by active community involvement in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of rural development programs (Padila, 2025).

Community economic activity is an important indicator for assessing the success of development supported by Village Funds (Kholik, 2024). Increased production, distribution, and consumption activities reflect the development of a local economy capable of creating employment opportunities, increasing community income, and strengthening the economic resilience of rural areas. In rural contexts, agriculture, livestock, trade, and MSMEs remain the main drivers of community economic activity (Chatra et al., 2025). Therefore, the utilization of Village Funds directed toward the development of productive sectors is expected to generate tangible impacts on improving community welfare in a sustainable manner. Strengthening local

economic activities also constitutes an important foundation for creating self-reliant and competitive villages amid the dynamics of national development (Setyawan et al., 2025).

Nevertheless, the implementation of Village Fund utilization in various regions continues to face numerous challenges that may reduce the effectiveness of development outcomes. These challenges include limited capacity among village officials in financial management, inadequate program planning, suboptimal community participation, and weak monitoring and evaluation systems (Kamila et al., 2025). In addition, there remains a tendency for Village Funds to be allocated more toward physical development than toward community economic empowerment (Widiyana et al., 2025). Such conditions have resulted in the benefits of Village Funds not being distributed evenly among community members, particularly in terms of increasing business productivity and creating new employment opportunities. Therefore, the implementation of the principles of transparency, accountability, and participation is essential to achieving effective and sustainable Village Fund governance (Subrata, 2024).

The utilization of Village Funds is also closely related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 8, which promotes inclusive and sustainable economic growth, decent work, and increased productivity (Riskiyah & Hermawan, 2025). The Indonesian government has integrated the SDGs into national development policies as well as rural development through the Village SDGs (SDGs Desa). In this context, Village Funds serve as a strategic instrument for supporting infrastructure development, productive business development, strengthening village economic institutions, and improving human resource capacity (Widiyana et al., 2025). Thus, the success of Village Fund management should not be measured merely by the amount of budget absorbed but also by its contribution to improving community welfare and achieving sustainable development targets (Liani et al., 2024).

Rensing Village is one of the villages in East Lombok Regency that receives Village Fund allocations and utilizes them to support infrastructure development and community economic empowerment (Widiyana et al., 2025). Based on the conditions described in this study, Village Funds are utilized for the development of village roads, irrigation networks, drainage systems, public facilities, community training, MSME development, assistance for farmer and livestock groups, and various social and community programs. The majority of the population of Rensing Village works in the agricultural sector, accompanied by other economic activities such as trade, livestock farming, and micro-enterprises, which have considerable potential for further development through optimal Village Fund management (Rini et al., 2025). Nevertheless, several challenges remain, including the effectiveness of Village Fund management, the optimization of economic empowerment programs, and the sustainability of implemented development programs. Therefore, an empirical study is needed to determine the extent to which Village Funds actually influence infrastructure development and community economic activity (Putri et al., 2024).

Based on the foregoing discussion, research on the effect of Village Fund utilization on infrastructure development and community economic activity in Rensing Village is important

to undertake. This study is expected to provide empirical evidence regarding the effectiveness of Village Fund utilization in supporting infrastructure development, increasing community economic activity, and contributing to the achievement of SDG 8. In addition to contributing to the development of knowledge in the fields of development economics and rural development, the findings of this study are expected to serve as an evaluation tool for the village government in formulating Village Fund management policies that are more effective, transparent, participatory, and oriented toward improving community welfare in a sustainable manner.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employed a quantitative approach using an explanatory research design. The quantitative approach was selected because the study aims to objectively measure and analyze the relationships between variables using numerical data processed through statistical techniques. Data were collected using a questionnaire with a five-point Likert scale (1–5), developed based on the indicators of each research variable. Each variable consisted of 10 statements. The population of this study comprised residents of Rensing Village, West Sakra District, totaling 1,668 people, based on data obtained from the Rensing Village administrative records.

The sampling technique employed in this study was purposive sampling, which involves selecting respondents based on predetermined criteria considered relevant to the objectives of the study. A total of 94 respondents were selected as the research sample. The respondents were determined according to the following criteria:

- Residents of Rensing Village, consisting of 45 males and 49 females, aged 17–60 years (productive age) or married.
- Residents who have an understanding of Village Funds, including village government staff (10 respondents), teachers (12 respondents), residents who receive social assistance (BANSOS) (32 respondents), and the general community (40 respondents).

Tabel 1. Population Data of Rensing Village

No	Area	Number of Housholds	Male	Female	Total
1	Rensing Bat	110	180	190	370
2	Lepok	95	150	160	310
3	Timuk Rurung	100	165	175	340
4	Tembok Gading	90	155	165	320
5	Tibu Jae	95	160	168	328
	Total	490	810	858	1.668

Source: Rensing Village Monograph Data (2026), the Rensing Village Profile Website, and the results of direct interviews with Rensing Village Office staff (2026).

Hypothesis testing was conducted using the non-parametric Kruskal–Wallis test. This test was employed because the results of the normality test indicated that the data were not entirely normally distributed. The hypothesis testing was conducted at a 5% significance level ($\alpha = 0.05$). The decision criterion was based on the Asymp. Sig. value. If the Asymp. Sig. value was less than 0.05, H_0 was rejected and H_a was accepted, indicating a statistically significant effect among the variables being tested. Conversely, if the Asymp. Sig. value was greater than 0.05, H_0 was accepted and H_a was rejected.

Hypothesis testing can be determined based on the test statistic and probability value. In this study, the Kruskal–Wallis test was conducted at a 5% significance level ($\alpha = 0.05$). The hypothesis was considered supported when the Asymp. Sig. value was less than 0.05 and not supported when the Asymp. Sig. value was greater than 0.05. Therefore, the criteria for accepting or rejecting the hypothesis were that H_a was accepted and H_0 was rejected when the test statistic exceeded the critical value. When the probability approach was used, H_a was accepted if the p-value < 0.05 (Azizaturrahmah, 2023). Prior to hypothesis testing, validity and reliability tests were conducted on the questionnaire to assess the feasibility and consistency of the research instrument.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESEARCH RESULTS

Description of Respondent Characteristics

The respondents in this study were residents of Rensing Village. Hypothesis testing in this study was conducted to determine the effect of the independent variable on the dependent variables. Although conceptually this study employed an inferential analysis approach, the results indicate that hypothesis testing was conducted through a comparative test using the paired samples t-test.

Based on the research sample of 94 respondents (N = 90, distributed across groups of variable X with values ranging from 27 to 32, with df = 12, 35, 9, 18, 12, and 4), the mean value of the respondent characteristic groups was in the medium category, with an average mean of 29.11. The distribution of respondents across the respective X score categories indicates variation in the characteristics of the research subjects, with the group having a score of 28 representing the largest group (df = 35), while the group with a score of 32 represented the smallest group (df = 4). The overall instrument used to assess these characteristics was also statistically tested and demonstrated acceptable internal consistency, as indicated by a Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.659 (0.659 > 0.60).

Furthermore, the Kruskal–Wallis H value, which in the context of this comparative/influence analysis is considered equivalent to the calculated test statistic or calculated T value, was 11.252 for the Total Y.A variable, with a significance value (Asymp. Sig.) of 0.048. Meanwhile, for the Total Y.B variable, the calculated value was 12.915, with a significance value (Asymp. Sig.) of 0.023 at 5 degrees of freedom (df). Since the significance

values for both variables were lower than the predetermined alpha level ($p < 0.05$), the null hypothesis (H_0) was rejected. This indicates that variable X has a statistically significant effect on both Total Y.A and Total Y.B.

Based on the inferential statistical estimation, the 95% confidence interval for the mean value of variable X ranged from 28.64 to 29.25, with a sample mean (M) of 28.94 and a standard deviation (SD) of 1.44. This indicates that, with a 95% confidence level, the actual population mean of variable X is estimated to fall within this interval. The relatively narrow range of the interval reflects a high level of data precision and consistency among the respondents included in the study, thereby supporting the generalization of the research findings.

Overall, the hypothesis testing results indicate that the model or treatment applied in this study was effective in improving students' learning outcomes and can therefore be recommended for use in the learning process.

Questionnaire Validity Test

Table 2. Results of the Validity Test

Correlations

		X.1	X.2	X.3	X.4	X.5	X.6	X.7	X.8	X.9	X.10	total
X.1	Pearson Correlation	1	.129	-.118	-.065	-.023	-.075	-.183	.057	-.017	.163	.246*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.216	.258	.532	.829	.472	.077	.586	.867	.117	.017
	N	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
X.2	Pearson Correlation	.129	1	.109	.000	.011	.036	-.344**	-.027	.049	-.198	.173
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.216		.294	1.000	.918	.732	.001	.796	.641	.055	.096
	N	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
X.3	Pearson Correlation	-.118	.109	1	.545**	.156	.226*	.096	-.022	.213*	.140	.647**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.258	.294		.000	.132	.029	.355	.832	.039	.177	.000
	N	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
X.4	Pearson Correlation	-.065	.000	.545**	1	.104	.345**	.000	.261*	.249*	.035	.512**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.532	1.000	.000		.320	.001	1.000	.011	.016	.735	.000
	N	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
X.5	Pearson Correlation	-.023	.011	.156	.104	1	-.036	-.015	.027	.086	.198	.229*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.829	.918	.132	.320		.732	.884	.796	.410	.055	.026
	N	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
X.6	Pearson Correlation	-.075	.036	.226*	.345**	-.036	1	.188	.090	.107	.086	.361**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.472	.732	.029	.001	.732		.069	.388	.306	.412	.000
	N	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
X.7	Pearson Correlation	-.183	-.344**	.096	.000	-.015	.188	1	.038	-.069	.037	.040
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.077	.001	.355	1.000	.884	.069		.713	.507	.726	.702
	N	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94

Source: SPSS Output, processed by the researcher, 2026.

Based on the results of the validity test, all 10 question items were declared valid because they had a Sig. (2-tailed) value of < 0.05 and showed a positive correlation with the total score.

Questionnaire Reliability Test

Table 3. Results of the Reliability Test

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.659	10

Source: SPSS Output, processed by the researcher, 2026.

Based on standard statistical criteria, a research instrument is considered reliable when it has a Cronbach's Alpha value greater than 0.60. The obtained Cronbach's Alpha value in this study was 0.659 (0.659 > 0.60), indicating that the questionnaire demonstrated an acceptable level of internal consistency and reliability. Therefore, the questionnaire can be considered sufficiently consistent and reliable for use as a research instrument.

Normality Test

Tabel 4. Result of The Normality Test

Tests of Normality[a,b,e,f,g,h,i,j]							
		Kolmogorov-Smirnov[c]			Shapiro-Wilk		
	X	Statistic	Df	Sig.	Statistic	Df	Sig.
total Y A	27	.261	12	.023	.845	12	.032
	28	.288	35	.000	.869	35	.001
	29	.257	9	.088	.903	9	.273
	30	.244	18	.006	.877	18	.023
	31	.184	12	.200*	.919	12	.280
	32	.283	4	.	.863	4	.272
total Y B	27	.293	12	.005	.867	12	.060
	28	.180	35	.005	.931	35	.030
	29	.223	9	.200*	.838	9	.055
	30	.238	18	.008	.843	18	.007
	31	.280	12	.010	.884	12	.099
	32	.441	4	.	.630	4	.001

Source: SPSS Output, processed by the researcher, 2026.

Decision-Making Criteria

- Test Used: The Shapiro–Wilk test was employed because the sample size (df) in each group was relatively small (less than 50).
- Criteria: If the Sig. value is greater than 0.05, the data are considered normally distributed.

If the Sig. value is less than 0.05, the data are considered not normally distributed. Therefore, the assumption of normality for both Total Y.A and Total Y.B variables based on the grouping of X values was not satisfied. Although several groups showed a normal distribution, the majority of the other groups showed non-normal distributions (Sig. < 0.05) or had constant data.

Homogenity Test

Table 5. Results of the Homogeneity Test

		Levene Statistic	df1	df2	Sig.
total Y A	Based on Mean	1.206	5	84	.313
	Based on Median	1.040	5	84	.400
	Based on Median and with adjusted df	1.040	5	77.368	.400
	Based on trimmed mean	1.248	5	84	.294
total Y B	Based on Mean	1.150	5	84	.341
	Based on Median	1.196	5	84	.318
	Based on Median and with adjusted df	1.196	5	71.113	.320
	Based on trimmed mean	1.148	5	84	.342

Source: SPSS Output, processed by the researcher, 2026.

Decision-Making Criteria

- Purpose of the Test: The homogeneity test was conducted to determine whether the variance of the data across the X groups was equal (homogeneous) or different (heterogeneous). Homogeneity of variance is an important assumption for certain parametric statistical tests, such as ANOVA.
- Criteria:
  - If the Sig. value > 0.05, the data have equal or homogeneous variances, indicating that the assumption is satisfied.
  - If the Sig. value ≤ 0.05, the data have unequal or heterogeneous variances, indicating that the assumption is violated.

Summary of Analysis Results

1. Total Y.A Variable

The Sig. value based on the Mean was 0.313, while the Sig. value based on the Median was 0.400. Since both significance values were greater than 0.05, the variance of the Total Y.A variable across the X groups was considered homogeneous.

2. Total Y.B Variable

The Sig. value based on the Mean was 0.341, while the Sig. value based on the Median was 0.318. Since both significance values were greater than 0.05, the variance of the Total Y.B variable across the X groups was also considered homogeneous.

Thus, the assumption of homogeneity of variance for both Total Y.A and Total Y.B was satisfied. The variances of the data across the X groups were considered equal or homogeneous.

Hypothesis Test

Table 6. Results of the Hypothesis Test

	total Y A	total Y B
Kruskal-Wallis H	11.252	12.915
df	5	5
Asymp. Sig.	.048	.023

Source: SPSS Output, processed by the researcher, 2026.

1. Total Y.A Variable

   The Asymp. Sig. value was 0.048. Since the significance value of 0.048 is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. This indicates that variable X has a statistically significant effect on Total Y.A.

2. Total Y.B Variable

   The Asymp. Sig. value was 0.023. Since the significance value of 0.023 is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. This indicates that there is a statistically significant difference in Total Y.B across the X groups, suggesting a statistically significant effect of variable X on Total Y.B.

The significance values for both dependent variables were below the 0.05 threshold. Therefore, the results indicate that variable X has a statistically significant effect on both Total Y.A and Total Y.B.

DISCUSSION

The Effect of Village Fund Utilization on Infrastructure Development in Rensing Village

Based on the results of hypothesis testing using the Kruskal–Wallis test, the H value was 11.252 with 5 degrees of freedom (df) and an Asymp. Sig. value of 0.048. This significance value is lower than the 0.05 significance level (0.048 < 0.05). Therefore, H0 is rejected and Ha is accepted. These results indicate that there are significant differences in infrastructure development across groups based on Village Fund utilization. This finding supports H1, which states that Village Fund utilization has a positive effect on village infrastructure development.

The findings indicate that Village Fund utilization has a significant relationship with the condition of infrastructure development in Rensing Village. The utilization of Village Funds

for the development of village roads, irrigation networks, drainage systems, public facilities, and other supporting infrastructure can provide direct benefits to the community. Adequate infrastructure can improve community accessibility and mobility, allowing social and economic activities to take place more efficiently. This article also explains that infrastructure development is one form of Village Fund utilization that can support increased community productivity and local economic activity.

These findings are consistent with the discussion in the literature review, which explains that rural infrastructure is an important component in supporting social, economic, and public service activities. Roads, bridges, irrigation systems, educational facilities, health facilities, clean water, and sanitation are forms of infrastructure that can improve community accessibility and connectivity. Good infrastructure can also facilitate the distribution of production outputs and increase the productivity of the agricultural sector and community-based businesses.

In the context of Rensing Village, the availability of infrastructure developed or improved through Village Fund utilization serves as one of the supporting factors for community economic activities. A portion of the population of Rensing Village is engaged in agriculture, trade, livestock farming, and microenterprises. Therefore, the availability of better roads and irrigation systems can assist residents in carrying out mobility, transporting production outputs, and accessing economic activity centers. This condition demonstrates that infrastructure development not only provides benefits in the form of physical facilities but can also support the productive activities of the community.

The findings of this study also reinforce the view that the success of Village Fund utilization cannot be assessed solely based on the amount of funds allocated or spent, but also on the benefits generated for the community. Village Fund management that is directed toward community needs and implemented transparently, accountably, and participatively is more likely to produce development that provides sustainable benefits. Thus, the results of the Kruskal–Wall is test for the infrastructure variable indicate that Village Fund utilization plays an important role in supporting infrastructure development in Rensing Village.

The Effect of Village Fund Utilization on Community Economic Activities in Rensing Village

The results of the analysis of the economic activity variable show a Kruskal–Wallis statistic of 12.915 with 5 degrees of freedom (df) and an Asymp. Sig. value of 0.023. Since the significance value of 0.023 is lower than 0.05, H0 is rejected and Ha is accepted. Thus, there are significant differences in community economic activities across groups based on Village Fund utilization. These findings support H2 in this study.

These findings indicate that Village Fund utilization has a significant relationship with the economic activities of the Rensing Village community. Village Funds are not only intended for physical development but can also be directed toward community empowerment programs, MSME development, business assistance, training, and capacity building. These programs can provide support for community members in developing productive economic activities.

The economic activities of the Rensing Village community examined in this study are related to various activities involving production, distribution, and consumption. The community's economic activities are derived from the agricultural, trade, livestock, MSME, and other business sectors. Support for these sectors is important because community economic activity is one of the indicators of village economic development. Increased production and trade activities can create business opportunities, increase income, and strengthen the economic resilience of the community.

The utilization of Village Funds through economic empowerment can also provide indirect benefits to the community. When community members receive support in the form of training, business assistance, MSME development, or capacity building, they have greater opportunities to develop their existing economic activities. This article explains that entrepreneurship training, business capital assistance, strengthening of Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMDes), MSME development, and capacity building for community groups are forms of Village Fund utilization aimed at creating greater economic independence among rural communities.

In addition, infrastructure development and economic activities are interconnected in supporting community economic development. Adequate road and irrigation infrastructure can facilitate the distribution of agricultural products, improve community mobility, and reduce barriers to economic activities. Therefore, the benefits of Village Fund utilization for economic activities do not only come from direct empowerment programs but also from the development of infrastructure that supports community economic activities.

The findings of this study indicate that Village Fund management needs to be directed toward a balanced combination of infrastructure development and economic empowerment. If Village Fund utilization is focused solely on physical development, its benefits for improving the economic capacity of the community may be less optimal. Conversely, infrastructure development accompanied by community empowerment programs can create a more supportive environment for the development of businesses and community economic activities.

The Relationship between Research Findings and the Achievement of SDG 8

The findings of this study show significant differences in infrastructure development and economic activities based on groups of Village Fund utilization. These findings are relevant to efforts to achieve SDG 8, namely Decent Work and Economic Growth. As discussed in the literature review of this article, SDG 8 emphasizes increased productivity, expanded employment opportunities, strengthened entrepreneurship, and MSME development as components of quality economic growth.

Adequate infrastructure can serve as a foundation for supporting community economic activities. Roads, irrigation systems, public facilities, and other supporting infrastructure can assist community members in carrying out production and distribution activities. Meanwhile, economic empowerment programs, MSME development, business assistance, and capacity building can support increased productivity and business opportunities. These conditions are

relevant to the objectives of SDG 8, which emphasize inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Nevertheless, it should be emphasized that SDG 8 in this study was not tested as a separate statistical variable. The available Kruskal–Wallis output only tested Total Y.A as infrastructure and Total Y.B as economic activity. Therefore, the relationship with SDG 8 is positioned as a contribution or implication of the research findings, rather than as a statistical hypothesis that has been empirically established through a separate test. The article also notes that H3 concerning the achievement of SDG 8 was not statistically tested because no specific statistical output for SDG 8 was available.

Implications of the Research Findings for Village Fund Management in Rensing Village

Overall, the research findings indicate that Village Fund utilization has a significant relationship with infrastructure development and community economic activities in Rensing Village. The significance value of 0.048 for the infrastructure variable and 0.023 for the economic activity variable indicate that both test results are below the 0.05 significance level.

These findings imply that the Rensing Village Government needs to maintain and improve the effectiveness of Village Fund utilization by considering the needs of the community. The use of Village Funds should not only focus on infrastructure development but also strengthen programs that directly support community economic activities, such as MSME empowerment, productive business development, skills improvement, and the strengthening of village economic institutions.

Community participation is also an important component of Village Fund management. Involving the community from the planning and implementation stages through to evaluation can help ensure that the programs implemented are aligned with community needs. Through transparent, accountable, participatory, and locally oriented management, Village Fund utilization is expected to provide more sustainable benefits for the people of Rensing Village.

Therefore, the research findings not only demonstrate statistically significant results but also illustrate that infrastructure development and economic empowerment need to be implemented in parallel. Physical development can provide a foundation for supporting economic activities, while community empowerment can enhance the capacity of residents to utilize the infrastructure that has been developed. The synergy between these two aspects is important in supporting village economic development and contributing to the achievement of SDG 8.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and discussion concerning the utilization of Village Funds for infrastructure development and community economic activities in Rensing Village in supporting the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The results show that Village Fund utilization has a significant effect on infrastructure development in Rensing Village, with a significance value of 0.048 < 0.05. The utilization of Village Funds through the development of roads, irrigation systems, drainage, and public facilities has improved accessibility and supported the smooth implementation of community activities. This indicates that properly targeted Village Fund utilization can contribute to strengthening the quality of village infrastructure.
2. The results show that Village Fund utilization has a significant effect on the economic activities of the Rensing Village community, with a significance value of 0.023 < 0.05. The utilization of Village Funds through community empowerment programs, MSME development, business assistance, and capacity building has supported productivity, employment opportunities, business opportunities, and community income, thereby contributing to the achievement of SDG 8 through more inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Susggestion

The Rensing Village Government is advised to continue optimizing the utilization of Village Funds by prioritizing infrastructure development that supports community economic activities and strengthening empowerment programs based on local potential, such as MSME development, farmer groups, productive business assistance, and community capacity building. Village Fund management should also be carried out transparently, accountably, participatively, and sustainably to ensure that the programs implemented are aligned with community needs, improve community welfare, and contribute to the achievement of SDG 8.

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