



Research Paper

Village Fund Empowerment in Human Resource Development in Pulau Baguk Village, Pulau Banyak District

Sri Rahma Yanda¹ , Saifuddin¹, Tamarli¹

¹ Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Abulyatama, Aceh Besar 23372, Indonesia

sriahmayanda@gmail.com

<https://doi.org/10.30601/vg3wt571>

Published by Universitas Abulyatama

Artikel Info

Received:

25/02/2024

Revised:

25/03/2024

Accepted:

20/04/2024

Online first:

30/04/2024

Abstract

This study examines the use of Village Funds for human resource development and community empowerment in Pulau Baguk Village, Pulau Banyak District, Aceh Singkil Regency, Aceh Province, Indonesia. The study used a descriptive qualitative approach. Data were collected through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The key informants were the village head, the village secretary, the head of the Village Consultative Body (BPKam), a youth leader, and a housewife. The results show that Village Funds in Pulau Baguk Village are directed toward improving the quality of human resources, strengthening the local economy, and developing community-based tourism. Village development programs are planned through village deliberations, and the most successful program is the development of marine tourism on Pulau Panjang, managed by the village-owned enterprise (BUMDes) since 2018, which has created jobs for local residents. Village Funds have also financed infrastructure improvements and training for the community, including seafood processing and handicraft training for housewives and computer and social media promotion training for young people, which has increased household income and digital skills. The main supporting factors are the role of BUMDes and community participation, while the main inhibiting factors are the low level of education and experience of the community, limited facilities, the lack of follow-up training, the suboptimal marketing of local products, and the remoteness of the village. The study recommends continued training and business assistance, stronger digital literacy and internet access, more professional tourism management, and greater involvement of young people, women, farmers, and fishers in village programs.

Keywords: Village Funds, Community Empowerment, Human Resource Development, BUMDes, Pulau Banyak



Copyright © 2024 The Authors. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.

1. Introduction

Village Funds (Dana Desa) are budget allocations from the central government to every village in Indonesia, intended mainly to strengthen development and empower local communities. They are directed toward improving the welfare of residents and accelerating the development of village infrastructure [1]. Effective management of Village Funds can produce various programs that benefit the community, including skills training and the construction of public facilities, and the use of Village Funds can encourage residents to develop micro and small businesses and become economically independent [2], [3]. Previous studies have shown that Village Funds and village-owned enterprises (BUMDes) can reduce poverty in Indonesia [4], [5] and in Aceh [6], although other studies found no significant effect when the funds were spent mainly on physical infrastructure [7], [8], [9].

The Indonesian government uses Village Funds as a strategic instrument to empower communities and improve living standards, especially in remote and disadvantaged areas. Pulau Baguk Village, located in Pulau Banyak District, Aceh Singkil Regency, has great potential, particularly in marine tourism, but still faces obstacles in improving the quality of its human resources [10]. This situation requires the village government to take a more active role in designing and implementing programs that meet the needs of residents. The use of Village Funds for human resource development should create learning and training opportunities for the community and improve access to quality education, which is crucial for building competitive human resources and improving community welfare [11], [12].

Previous studies on Village Funds have mostly used quantitative data at the regency or provincial level [4], [5], [9], [13], while studies in Pulau Banyak have focused on tourism awareness groups and the role of the government in tourism [10]. Studies that examine how Village Funds are used for human resource development and community empowerment in remote island villages, from the perspective of village officials and residents, remain limited. This study therefore aims to describe the use of Village Funds for human resource development and community empowerment in Pulau Baguk Village, Pulau Banyak District, and to identify the supporting and inhibiting factors.

2. Literature Review

Community Empowerment

Community empowerment includes increasing the knowledge, skills, and self-confidence of the community so that it can participate actively in development. The aim of empowerment is to improve the quality of life by improving access to education, health services, and basic infrastructure, which in turn reduces poverty and increases welfare [2], [12]. Empowerment is also intended to encourage the active involvement of the community in decision-making, so that residents feel they have control over their environment and the resources around them [14], [15].

Village Funds

Village Funds are funds from the state budget (APBN) transferred through the regency/city budget (APBD) and used to finance village governance, development, community guidance, and community empowerment [1]. The amount of Village Funds differs between villages because it is determined by certain indicators. Based on the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs No. 20 of 2018 on Village Financial Management, village finances must be managed according to the principles of transparency, accountability, participation, and budgetary discipline [16]. Under Law No. 6 of 2014 on Villages, village revenues include the village's own-source revenue (from village enterprises, village assets, community self-help, and mutual cooperation), allocations from the

state budget, a share of regional taxes and levies from the regency/city, and village fund allocations from the regency/city [1].

Human Resources

Human resources are a valuable asset for both organizations and communities. Individuals with good competencies can improve performance and drive innovation. Human resource development includes education, training, and guidance aimed at increasing the skills and knowledge of individuals [11]. At the village level, improving the quality of human resources is necessary so that the community can face various economic challenges and take advantage of local potential, such as tourism [10], [17]. Investment in human resources through education and training produces individuals who are more skilled and better prepared for rapid change.

The Role of the Village Government

The village government is responsible for designing, implementing, and evaluating programs that meet the needs of the community and for managing all resources in its area, including natural resources, finances, and the potential of the community. These responsibilities cover development planning, Village Fund management, and infrastructure development to improve the welfare of residents [18]. The village government also provides public services in education, health, and basic infrastructure, and it has the authority to formulate policies in line with local needs and characteristics through village deliberations that involve the community in decision-making [14], [18].

3. Method

This study used a descriptive qualitative approach to describe and interpret the object of study as it is and to provide a systematic and accurate representation of the facts and characteristics of the subject studied [19]. The research was conducted in Pulau Baguk Village, Pulau Banyak District, Aceh Singkil Regency. The informants were selected purposively and consisted of five key informants: the village head, the village secretary, the head of the Village Consultative Body (BPKam), a youth leader, and a housewife. Data were collected through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation, and were analyzed through data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing [20]. The findings were organized into themes reflecting the management of Village Funds and the views of the community on their implementation [21]. To protect their privacy, informants are referred to by their positions.

4. Result and Discussion

Based on interviews with the five key informants, the Village Funds of Pulau Baguk Village in 2024 were directed toward improving the quality of human resources, strengthening the local economy, and developing community-based tourism. The results are presented under the following themes.

Village Development Programs Funded by Village Funds

Development policies financed by Village Funds aim to improve community welfare through infrastructure development, the development of economic potential, and the improvement of human resources. The government of Pulau Baguk Village uses Village Funds to encourage development for the welfare of its residents, most notably the development of the tourism sector managed by BUMDes, while infrastructure development continues to be carried out based on deliberations between the village government and the community. The village head explained that the annual village development program is planned through village deliberations attended by community leaders. The program that has developed most is the development of marine tourism,

which has been running since 2018. In addition, Village Funds have been used to repair damaged roads, add port facilities, and improve other public facilities.

One of the most successful programs funded by Village Funds is the development of the tourist attraction on Pulau Panjang, which is managed by BUMDes. This attraction has opened job opportunities for local residents. To ensure its success, the village government has also organized training to improve the skills and experience of the community, thereby developing local human resources.

Implementation and Results of Village Fund Use

The distribution of Village Funds reflects the government's commitment to protecting and strengthening villages so that they become resilient, independent, advanced, and democratic. Village Funds give communities the opportunity to carry out development and empowerment aimed at welfare, justice, and prosperity, and they allow villages to design activities that improve the local economy. Pulau Baguk Village has chosen to focus on the tourism sector and on supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), as revealed in interviews with the village head, the head of BPKam, and residents. The informants reported that housewives have increasingly participated in training on seafood processing and handicrafts, which has increased household income, and that young people have actively participated in computer training and in promoting tourism through social media, reflecting improved digital skills and their important role in village development.

Supporting Factors

The success of Village Fund use can be seen in the effectiveness of budget allocation to various business sectors, including through programs run by BUMDes. In addition, community participation and involvement support every planned program and increase community awareness of the empowerment objectives of Village Funds. These findings are consistent with Azhari *et al.* [6], who found that Village Funds and village-owned enterprises reduce poverty in Aceh, and with Habibi and Safitri [10], who found that tourism awareness groups in Pulau Balai and Pulau Baguk have increased local income through homestays, food stalls, souvenir sales, and boat rentals.

Inhibiting Factors

One of the main factors inhibiting the empowerment use of Village Funds is the low quality of human resources in the community, which results from low levels of education and limited experience. Quality human resources are reflected in the skills, knowledge, and experience that individuals contribute to achieving common goals, and improving them contributes to raising the economic level of the community. Human resource development, through education, training, and guidance, is therefore an important aspect of strengthening the capacity of the community to face economic challenges. The village head emphasized that human resource development is needed to improve the economy and welfare of the community. Other obstacles include limited facilities and infrastructure, the lack of follow-up training, the suboptimal marketing of local products, limited digital tourism promotion, and the remoteness of the village.

Community Empowerment

Community empowerment in Pulau Baguk Village aims to improve living standards by improving access to education, health services, and basic infrastructure, which reduces poverty and increases welfare. Empowerment also builds active participation in decision-making, as the involvement of the community in village deliberations gives residents a sense of control over their environment. Overall, the community feels that the 2024 Village Fund program has had a positive impact on its welfare, as shown by improvements in infrastructure, household economies, digital

skills, and social and cultural activities. However, the informants also hope that future empowerment programs will reach farmers and fishers, who have not been fully facilitated so far.

Discussion

The findings show that the use of Village Funds in Pulau Baguk Village goes beyond physical infrastructure to include human resource development and economic empowerment, particularly through community-based tourism and MSMEs. This is consistent with Putra *et al.* [2], who found that development, empowerment, and guidance programs funded by Village Funds significantly improve community welfare in Southeast Aceh, and with Phoek *et al.* [3], who found that Village Funds support community economic empowerment in South Papua but have not yet been fully optimized for economic independence. The emphasis on training and empowerment is important because studies have found that Village Funds spent mainly on physical infrastructure have no significant effect on poverty [7], [8]. The development of community-based tourism managed by BUMDes and supported by training also reflects the importance of collaboration between the government and the community [15], [22] and the role of tourism awareness groups in local tourism development [10], [17].

At the same time, the obstacles identified, such as low education levels, limited follow-up training, weak marketing, and geographic remoteness, indicate that empowerment requires continuous assistance rather than one-off projects. Community-driven development programs can deliver public goods and modest economic returns, but their long-term effect on empowering the poor depends on local institutions and sustained support [14]. Pulau Baguk Village appears to be moving in this direction, but it still needs consistent assistance and local policy innovation to overcome structural challenges, such as geographic isolation and dependence on central government funds.

This study has several limitations. It is based on a small number of informants in a single village and on their perceptions, without quantitative data on Village Fund allocations or household income. Future research should combine qualitative data with village budget data and household surveys to assess the effects of Village Funds on human resource development more comprehensively.

5. Conclusion

In 2024, Village Funds in Pulau Baguk Village, Pulau Banyak District, were used to support key sectors, including human resource development, the economic empowerment of the local community, digital literacy, and community-based tourism. The programs were planned through open village deliberations involving the community, with reasonably accountable reporting and administration. An important achievement is the increased participation of housewives in seafood processing and handicraft training, which has increased household income, and the active participation of young people in computer training and social media tourism promotion. However, several obstacles remain, including limited digital tourism promotion, suboptimal tourism management, and the limited reach of empowerment programs to farmers and fishers.

The study recommends that follow-up training and business assistance continue to be developed so that the community not only has basic skills but can also run sustainable and competitive businesses. Digital literacy and internet access should be strengthened to support the online marketing and promotion of village products and potential. Tourism management should be organized in a more focused and professional manner, with clearer division of tasks among existing actors. The involvement of young people and women in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of village programs should be increased so that development is truly inclusive, and

regular evaluation and needs mapping are recommended so that Village Funds are always directed according to changes in the social and economic conditions of the community.

Acknowledgement

The authors would like to thank the government and community of Pulau Baguk Village, Pulau Banyak District, Aceh Singkil Regency, for their cooperation and willingness to share information. The authors also thank the reviewers and editors of Jurnal Humaniora for their valuable comments and suggestions.

Authors' contributions and responsibilities

Sri Rahma Yanda: conceptualization, data collection, analysis, writing – original draft. Saifuddin: supervision, methodology, writing – review & editing. Tamarli: supervision, validation, writing – review & editing.

Funding

This research did not receive any specific funding from government, private, or non-profit institutions.

Availability of data and materials

All data are available from the authors upon reasonable request.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interest.

Ethical approval

This study involved interviews with adult informants. All informants participated voluntarily after being informed of the purpose of the study, and they are referred to by their positions in this article.

Additional information

No additional information from the authors.

Declaration of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies

During the preparation of this manuscript, Claude (Anthropic) was used to improve the language and readability of the English text and to format the manuscript and references according to the journal template. The tool was not used to generate research data, perform the analysis, or draw conclusions. The authors reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the publication.

References

- [1] Republic of Indonesia, *Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages*. Jakarta, Indonesia, 2014.
- [2] I. E. Putra, E. Erlina, and S. Sirojuzilam, "Pengaruh program pembangunan pemberdayaan dan pembinaan dana desa terhadap kesejahteraan masyarakat di Kecamatan Babussalam Kabupaten Aceh Tenggara," *Jurnal Interoensi Sosial dan Pembangunan*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 19–26, 2023, doi: 10.30596/jisp.v4i1.13032.
- [3] I. Phoeke, A. Bhaumik, O. Isaac, and A. Tjilen, "How village funds influence economic development in South Papua, Indonesia," *Problems and Perspectives in Management*, vol. 22, no. 1, pp. 310–323, 2024, doi: 10.21511/ppm.22(1).2024.26.

- [4] T. A. Sigit and A. Kosasih, "Pengaruh dana desa terhadap kemiskinan: Studi tingkat kabupaten/kota di Indonesia," *Indonesian Treasury Review*, vol. 5, no. 2, pp. 105–119, 2020, doi: 10.33105/itrev.v5i2.170.
- [5] N. N. O. Abdjul, F. Bumulo, and B. R. Payu, "Analisis pengaruh kebijakan dana desa dan output ekonomi terhadap kemiskinan pedesaan se-Indonesia," *Jurnal Studi Ekonomi dan Pembangunan*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2023, doi: 10.37905/jsep.v1i1.21253.
- [6] A. Azhari, M. Yusuf, K. Kamaruddin, and F. Fadly, "Are village fund and village-owned enterprises crucial in eradicating poverty in Indonesia," *Jurnal Ekonomi dan Bisnis Jagaditha*, vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 132–138, 2022, doi: 10.22225/jj.9.2.2022.132-138.
- [7] M. Muliza, "Pengaruh dana desa dan produk domestik regional bruto (PDRB) terhadap tingkat kemiskinan di Provinsi Aceh," *Oikos: Jurnal Kajian Pendidikan Ekonomi dan Ilmu Ekonomi*, vol. 6, no. 1, pp. 1–11, 2022, doi: 10.23969/oikos.v6i1.4056.
- [8] E. Ernita and C. P. M. Sari, "Pengaruh pembangunan fisik desa terhadap tingkat kemiskinan di 21 desa di Kecamatan Jangka Kabupaten Bireuen," *Jurnal Ekonomika Indonesia*, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 29–39, 2019, doi: 10.29103/ekonomika.v8i1.1798.
- [9] M. Qudri and C. P. M. Sari, "Pengaruh dana desa, produk domestik regional bruto dan indeks pembangunan manusia terhadap kemiskinan di 23 kabupaten/kota Provinsi Aceh," *Jurnal Ekonomi Regional Unimal*, vol. 6, no. 2, pp. 22–32, 2023, doi: 10.29103/jeru.v6i2.14584.
- [10] K. Habibi and R. Safitri, "Eksistensi kelompok sadar wisata dalam mewujudkan iklim kondusif bagi pengembangan pariwisata Kepulauan Banyak Kabupaten Aceh Singkil," *Al-Idarah: Jurnal Manajemen dan Administrasi Islam*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 67–81, 2020.
- [11] J. Juhandi, S. Hidayatullah, and S. R. O. Sandy, "Pelatihan kelompok sadar wisata (Pokdarwis) melalui kegiatan tata kelola destinasi pariwisata di Kabupaten Jember," *Journal of Humanities Community Empowerment*, vol. 1, no. 2, pp. 36–39, 2023, doi: 10.32528/jhce.v1i2.430.
- [12] K. S. Imai, R. Gaiha, and A. Garbero, "Poverty reduction during the rural–urban transformation: Rural development is still more important than urbanisation," *Journal of Policy Modeling*, vol. 39, no. 6, pp. 963–982, 2017, doi: 10.1016/j.jpolmod.2017.10.002.
- [13] R. Abdullah, "Pengaruh dana desa terhadap tingkat kemiskinan di Gorontalo," *Jambura Economic Education Journal*, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 165–176, 2022, doi: 10.37479/jeej.v4i2.14165.
- [14] K. Casey, "Radical decentralization: Does community-driven development work?," *Annual Review of Economics*, vol. 10, pp. 139–163, 2018, doi: 10.1146/annurev-economics-080217-053339.
- [15] T. H. Lee and F.-H. Jan, "Can community-based tourism contribute to sustainable development? Evidence from residents' perceptions of the sustainability," *Tourism Management*, vol. 70, pp. 368–380, 2019, doi: 10.1016/j.tourman.2018.09.003.
- [16] Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, *Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 20 of 2018 concerning Village Financial Management*. Jakarta, Indonesia, 2018.
- [17] L. Purnawati, "Pembentukan kelompok sadar wisata (Pokdarwis) dan pengembangan wisata di Pantai Gemah," *Publiciana: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik*, vol. 14, no. 2, pp. 293–307, 2021.
- [18] A. Akhyar, U. Usman, S. Saifuddin, K. Sadhana, and R. Musriandi, "Freies Ermessen in the delegation of authority from district government to village government," *Jurnal Ilmiah Peuradeun*, vol. 11, no. 2, p. 615, 2023, doi: 10.26811/peuradeun.v11i2.851.
- [19] H. Kim, J. S. Sefcik, and C. Bradway, "Characteristics of qualitative descriptive studies: A systematic review," *Research in Nursing & Health*, vol. 40, no. 1, pp. 23–42, 2017, doi: 10.1002/nur.21768.

- [20] M. B. Miles, A. M. Huberman, and J. Saldaña, *Qualitative Data Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook*, 4th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA, USA: SAGE Publications, 2020.
- [21] L. S. Nowell, J. M. Norris, D. E. White, and N. J. Moules, "Thematic analysis: Striving to meet the trustworthiness criteria," *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, vol. 16, no. 1, art. no. 1609406917733847, 2017, doi: 10.1177/1609406917733847.
- [22] N. Akapip and V. Kissya, "Kolaborasi pemerintah dan masyarakat dalam membangun ekosistem kewirausahaan pariwisata bahari berkelanjutan di Negeri Hukurila, Kota Ambon," *Populis: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik*, vol. 18, no. 1, pp. 50–64, 2023, doi: 10.30598/populis.18.1.50-64.