

## A Decade of Village Funds for the Development and Management of Village Road Infrastructure in Kekait Village Gunung Sari District, West Lombok Regency

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### A R T I C L E I N F O

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### A B S T R A C T

This study aims to analyze a decade of Village Fund use for road infrastructure development in Kekait Village, Gunung Sari District, West Lombok Regency. The research method used is descriptive qualitative. Data were collected through interviews with several related parties, namely the Village Head, Village Secretary, Village Treasurer, Head of the Village Consultative Body (BPD), KAUR Planning, Officials from the Community and Village Empowerment Service (DPMD), Local Village Facilitators, and the Kekait Village Community. The results of the study indicate that Village Funds have had a positive impact on local economic growth due to increased accessibility and quality of road infrastructure. However, limited funds require development to be carried out in stages, so better resource management is needed. Community participation also plays an important role even though it only contributes to labor. This study recommends improving coordination between parties, optimizing the use of Village Funds, and increasing community involvement for sustainable development.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Infrastructure development in a place is very necessary to fulfill basic human needs, especially in the social and economic spheres. As public capital, facilities such as public roads, bridges, drainage systems and so on are investments made by the government and are continuously developed to facilitate social and economic goals.

This development can be seen through the actions taken by the government in developing Indonesia by strengthening regions and villages. The goal is to improve welfare and equitable development through improving public services, advancing the economy, overcoming development gaps between villages and strengthening society as the subject of development (Kamaruddin, Kadewi Sumbawati, & Hidayat 2022)

To show the government's attention to village development, the government allocates Village Funds sourced from the central budget by optimizing village-based programs fairly and evenly. According to (Nurhidayati, (2023) , the Village Fund is an allocation of funds sourced from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBN) which aims to realize the State's commitment to protecting and empowering villages to become independent and prosperous villages.

This program has been running for approximately a decade or 10 (ten) years, because it has been regulated and stipulated in regulations that were first issued in 2014 through Act Number 6. 2014 concerning Villages and Government Regulation Number 60 of 2014 concerning Village Funds. Through a transfer mechanism to the district/city government, the central government allocates this Village Fund to each village based on the number of villages by considering the population of 30%, the area of 20%, and the poverty rate of 50%, so that good coordination is needed between the Central Government and the Regional Government (Kamaruddin, Kadewi Sumbawati, & Hidayat 2022) .

With the existence of Village Funds, it is hoped that development strategies in Indonesia, especially in rural areas, can increase the distribution of infrastructure development, which supports community welfare. One manifestation of this strategy is the provision of road infrastructure. According to (Ardiany, (2016) , roads are a basic need of society that must be met to support social and economic activities. Road infrastructure has a crucial role in regional development because good roads facilitate transportation and mobility of the population, and contribute to economic growth and community welfare.

Kekait Village, Gunung Sari District, West Lombok Regency, is one of the villages that received funds from the central government (APBN) for the provision of road infrastructure. In this village, road infrastructure plays a very important role in supporting daily activities. Considering that Kekait Village is also one of the main routes for the fastest land transportation compared to other routes from West Lombok Regency to North Lombok Regency, the road infrastructure also has an impact on the people in other villages.

However, based on the preliminary survey conducted by the researcher, it was found that there was still damage to the road, such as potholes that endanger road users and lack of lighting at night which can reduce visibility for

road users. Therefore, the influence of Village Funds in Kekait Village is again questioned, whether it has a large influence and significant impact so that Village Funds can be said to be optimal in the use of village road infrastructure development and management, or vice versa.

Through this research, it is expected that the Village Fund provided through the APBN can be known and its influence or effectiveness can be proven so as to create a process of infrastructure development and management that is felt by the people of Kekait Village, Gunung Sari District, West Lombok Regency. Not only that, it is expected that the Village Fund for development and management will also produce quality infrastructure, reflecting the goals and results of cooperation between all elements of the local community and proving that the coordination carried out by the Central Government and the Regional Government has been running well in accordance with applicable regulations.

Based on this phenomenon, the purpose of this study is to analyze the impact of Village Funds on the development and management of road infrastructure so as to improve the welfare of the people of Kekait Village, Gunung Sari District, West Lombok Regency. The expected benefits through this study are to open awareness for all parties, both the community and the government in optimizing and making the existing development funds efficient so that they are right on target and have a *sustainability concept* by considering the available resources. So that the Village Funds provided through the APBN can create a process of development and management of infrastructure that is felt by the community, producing quality infrastructure, describing the results of cooperation between all elements of society and proving that the coordination carried out by the Central Government and the Regional Government has been running well in accordance with applicable regulations.

## **THEORETICAL REVIEW**

### ***Village***

Referring to Act Number 6 of 2014 concerning Village Government, a Village is a legal community unit that has territorial boundaries that is authorized to regulate and manage government affairs, local community interests based on community initiatives, original rights, and/or traditional rights that are recognized and respected in the government system of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

### ***Village Fund***

Village Funds are funds provided to villages through the State Budget (APBN) and transferred through the Regency or City Regional Budget (APBD). In line with this, in Government Regulation No. 60 of 2014 concerning Village Funds sourced from the APBN, it is stated that optimizing the use of village funds is prioritized to finance government administration, development, community empowerment, and community.

### ***Village Fund Distribution Priorities***

Quoted from the official website of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, Village Funds are focused on financing local programs and activities at the village level aimed at community empowerment, adjusted to the conditions and potential of each village, and in line with the achievement of targets in the RPJMDes (Village Medium-Term Development Plan) and RKPDes (Village Government Work Plan) every year. Village Funds that are prioritized for the development of village facilities and infrastructure include:

- 1) Construction and maintenance of village road facilities and infrastructure
- 2) Construction and maintenance of agricultural road infrastructure and facilities
- 3) Construction and maintenance of village reservoir facilities and infrastructure
- 4) Development of new and renewable energy
- 5) Development and maintenance of environmental sanitation
- 6) Development and management of clean water on a village scale
- 7) Construction and maintenance of tertiary irrigation

### ***Infrastructure Development in Villages***

Infrastructure development is one of the key elements that is very important to accelerate the national development process. Infrastructure plays a crucial role as the main driver of economic growth. This is due to the fact that the progress and economic growth of a country is highly dependent on the availability of infrastructure, one of which is in the transportation sector. Therefore, the development of this sector is the main foundation for future economic development (Nadia, (2021) .

In rural areas, the infrastructure development process is also regulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs No. 114 of 2014 concerning Village Development Guidelines, which states that village development planning is a process of stages of activities organized by the Village Government by involving the Village Consultative Body and community elements in a participatory manner in order to utilize and allocate village resources in order to achieve village development goals.

### ***Infrastructure Management in Villages***

Infrastructure management in the village is also based on the participation of the local community. Management that prioritizes participation is believed to foster a sense of *belonging* (Kusumastuti, (2015) . The community participation in the management of village infrastructure can be in the form of ideas/thoughts, energy, and funds . This means that in rural development, the community tends to apply the principles of cooperation and mutual cooperation with various forms of participation.

## METHODOLOGY

The research was conducted in Kekait Village, Gunung Sari District, West Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province. The selection of the location is based on the condition of infrastructure development and management in Kekait Village, especially the transportation route, namely the road as a connection between one point and another, which is considered still lacking in terms of safety and comfort for its users. This can be proven by the damage to the road, such as the presence of potholes that can endanger road users and the lack of lighting at night which can reduce the visibility of road users, so the influence of the Village Fund provided through the APBN for Kekait Village needs to be known whether it is appropriate both in terms of optimization and effectiveness.

This research is a qualitative research with a descriptive analysis approach. Data collection was obtained directly from sources through interviews that provided information related to this research which was packaged in the form of questions related to the research subject. The selected sources are determined by their background, role, and experience that are relevant to the research subject. These criteria are designed to ensure that selected sources can provide reliable information. relevant to the research to be conducted.

The list of sources is as follows:

- 1) Village head
- 2) Village Secretary
- 3) Village Treasurer
- 4) Chairman of the Village Consultative Body (BPD)
- 5) Head of Planning
- 6) Officials from the Community and Village Empowerment Service (DPMD)
- 7) Local Village Companion
- 8) Kekait Village Community (Community Leaders, Religious Leaders, Village Health Officers, Youth Leaders)

The interviews were conducted using a semi-structured method, where the researcher had prepared an open-ended question guide. These questions were designed to trigger broader and deeper discussions. Interviews were conducted directly in Kekait Village. During the interview, the researcher used a recording device (with the consent of the informant) to ensure that all information was recorded accurately. The researcher also noted important points that emerged during the interview to enrich the data analysis.

For the presentation of research results in the form of descriptive or in the form of sentences. So to present these results the stages that need to be passed in the research process start from data collection, data processing, data analysis, data presentation, and drawing conclusions with verification in the form of documentation during the research.

## RESULTS

The following is data related to the allocation of Village Funds received by Kekait Village from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBN) over the last two years:

Table 1 List of Village Fund Income Kekait Gunung Sari District 2023 - 2024

No	Year	Village Fund (Rp)
1	2023	975,629,000
2	2024	983,805,000

Source: data from Kekait Village Fund , Gunung Sari District, West Lombok Regency

Based on the data listed above, the Kekait Village Fund received from the State Budget (APBN) has increased from 2023 to 2024. In 2023, the amount of Village Fund received reached IDR 975,629,000. Meanwhile, in 2024, this amount increased to IDR 983,805,000.

Thus, there is an increase of IDR 8,176,000 within one year. This increase shows the government's attention and commitment to supporting development at the village level, especially in Kekait Village, Gunung Sari District.

The additional funds are expected to be used optimally to support various village development and community empowerment programs. The increase in the allocation of Village Funds also reflects the potential for increased development needs, both in terms of infrastructure, community services, and local economic development.

Overall, with good and transparent management, this additional Village Fund can be an important driver in improving the quality of life of the people of Kekait Village and accelerating the achievement of sustainable village development goals.

The following presents details of the use of Kekait Village Funds for road infrastructure development during 2023 and 2024 :

Table 2 List of Village Fund Uses for Road Infrastructure Development

No	Year	Village Expenditure for Road Infrastructure Development	Fund Amount (Rp)
1	2023	Farm Road Construction	Rp. 180,500,000
2	2023	Construction of Alley Roads Using Brushed Stone	Rp. 28,350,000
3	2024	Farm Road Construction	Rp. 210,750,000

Source: Village Fund Data from Kekait, Gunung Sari District, West Lombok Regency

Based on the table above, the expenditure of Kekait Village Funds for road infrastructure development during 2023 and 2024 includes several projects

aimed at improving accessibility and quality of village infrastructure. Here are the details and analysis:

#### ***Farm Road Construction (2023)***

In 2023, funds amounting to Rp180,500,000 were allocated for the construction of farm roads. This project is expected to facilitate village community access to agricultural areas, accelerate the distribution of agricultural products, and support increased productivity in the agricultural sector.

#### ***Construction of Alley Roads Using Brushed Stone (2023)***

Construction of Alley Roads Using Brushed Stone (2023) : In the same year, Rp28,350,000 was used to build alley roads with brushed stone. This project focuses on residential areas, aiming to beautify the environment and improve comfort and aesthetics around the alley.

#### ***Farm Road Construction (2024)***

In 2024, the budget allocation for the construction of farm roads increased to Rp210,750,000. This increase likely reflects a larger-scale project or increased material and labor costs. The project still aims to support the agricultural sector, which is one of the village's priorities.

#### ***Total Expenditure Per Year***

##### *Year 2023*

The total use of Village Funds for road infrastructure development reached Rp. 208,850,000 (Rp. 180,500,000 for the construction of farm roads and Rp. 28,350,000 for repairing alley roads)

##### *Year 2024*

Total expenditure in 2024 for the construction of farm roads amounted to Rp. 210,750,000 which shows an increase in allocation from the previous year.

The allocation of Village Funds for the construction of farm roads in 2023 and 2024 shows that the agricultural sector is a top priority, which has significant benefits for the economy of Kekait Village. In addition to farm roads, the Kekait Village government also pays attention to the construction of alley roads using brushed stones which provide benefits such as aesthetics and comfort for the community in the residential area of Kekait Village. Expenditures for the construction of Farm Roads in 2024 increased from 2023 by Rp. 30,250,000 due to the need for larger-scale projects and increases in material or labor prices.

The results of interviews conducted by researchers regarding planning and priorities for the use of Village Funds in Kekait Village:

#### ***Planning***

For planning the use of Village Funds in Kekait Village, the village government forms a planning team, namely the RKPDes (Village Development Work Plan) team, which every year there must be a development plan that uses

Village Funds prepared by the RKPDes for the Village government work plan. The community is also involved in decision making for development planning in Kekait Village through Village deliberations held at the Kekait Village office .

***Priority***

Kekait Village has four priorities for the use of Village Funds, namely:

- 1) Food security
- 2) Stunting
- 3) Health
- 4) BLT (Direct Cash Assistance)

The priority for the use of Other Village Funds is adjusted to the needs in Kekait Village.

For 2024, the Kekait Village government prioritizes the construction of farm roads, the source of which is the Village Fund which has been budgeted for the last 2 years, which is to support the economy of the people in Kekait Village, where the majority of the people are farmers. According to the resource person, the Village Funds each year are not sufficient for the construction of road infrastructure in Kekait Village. Because the village government prioritizes the use of Village Funds for what is most needed by the village community at that time, therefore the Village Fund for road infrastructure development has not been able to be fulfilled optimally. The village government relies on other sources of funds , namely assistance from the provincial and district offices and many additional sources of funds obtained from the council representatives for road infrastructure development in Kekait Village.

The development of road infrastructure in Kekait Village has a very significant impact on the economy of the people in Kekait Village. Here are some of the effects:

*Increased accessibility to markets*

The construction of road infrastructure in Kekait Village facilitates transportation for people to buy and sell agricultural products, livestock, or other local products to wider markets and increases trade volume and business opportunities.

*Transportation efficiency*

With good road infrastructure, transportation time and costs in Kekait Village become more efficient, thereby reducing product distribution costs.

*Revenue Growth*

Ease of access to markets has a direct impact on people's income, for example farmers or small traders can increase their income because their goods reach consumers more quickly without damage and loss of quality.

### *Increasing Local Investment*

Road infrastructure attracts investors to develop businesses in the village, such as opening shops, agricultural processing factories, or tourism. These investments create new jobs for the local community.

With adequate road infrastructure, the people of Kekait Village not only get better access to markets and economic centers, but also greater opportunities to improve their standard of living and overall welfare. Not only the use of Village Funds for the construction of road infrastructure in Kekait Village also makes a major contribution in the fields of education, health, and other services where this increase in access as a whole improves the welfare of the community by creating an environment that supports education, health, and socio-economic development, so that road infrastructure becomes an important foundation for economic growth in Kekait Village.

Maintenance of road infrastructure in Kekait Village, the village government has budgeted annually for road infrastructure maintenance and is always there and there is indeed a special budget. The community is also involved in the construction / maintenance of road infrastructure in Kekait Village and only contributes as workers, not those who donate funds or so on. The community is only involved in large construction projects that require a larger workforce so that they can work together in carrying out the construction.

For the construction of road infrastructure that uses village funds, the materials are usually asphalt, concrete, coral or gravel, paving blocks or conblocks, gravel and geotextiles, while if the source of funds comes from other sources, it is usually in the form of brushed stone, so it is already in the form of brushed stone which is usually used on relatively small roads such as alleys. For new innovations for the construction of road infrastructure in Kekait Village, it is still ordinary, there is nothing that is too visible.

The most important challenge in the development of road infrastructure in Kekait Village is funding, where for example the road to be built is about 5 kilometers but the funding source is not enough so it is done in stages and for development planning there are many other developments that must be done so that we look again at what the main priorities are in development in Kekait Village. And the community really appreciates the development of road infrastructure in Kekait Village which makes it easier for people to get from one place to another which can make the economic process in Kekait Village faster.

## **DISCUSSION**

The results of this study reveal the importance of using Village Funds for road infrastructure development in Kekait Village. Road infrastructure has an important role in improving community welfare, especially in social and economic aspects.

### *The Impact of Village Funds on Road Infrastructure Development*

As explained by (Ardiany, (2016) adequate road infrastructure is an important element to support community activities and improve the mobility of goods and services and the use of Village Funds in Kekait Village has had a

positive impact in providing better road access. However, despite the positive impact, the limited allocation of funds requires the government to do it gradually, thus indicating the need for more strategic resource management.

### ***Community Participation in Development***

Community participation in the construction of road infrastructure in Kekait Village has an important role in the success of the project. This supports the findings (Kusumastuti, (2015) which states that community involvement increases the sense of ownership of the infrastructure being built, so that it can encourage the sustainability of road maintenance. However, in Kekait Village, community participation is still very limited to material contributions which may be caused by the economic limitations of the community so that the Village government only relies on Village Funds or donations from other regional agencies.

### ***Impact of Road Infrastructure on Local Economy***

According to, (Nadia, (2021) good road infrastructure contributes to the efficiency of product distribution and increasing community income and this is in accordance with the impact of road construction in Kekait Village which has increased community accessibility to the market, transportation efficiency, and encouraged local economic growth. Road infrastructure also has an attraction for investors to open businesses in the village which can create new job opportunities and encourage local economic development.

### ***Challenges in Road Infrastructure Development***

The biggest challenge in Kekait Village for road infrastructure development is the limited village funds that are not sufficient to complete the project as a whole. As a result, development is carried out in stages which makes the development of a project take longer to complete. This shows the need to diversify funding sources by involving district/provincial governments or the private sector to accelerate development.

### ***Improved Coordination***

Coordination between village governments, communities and other stakeholders needs to be improved to ensure more targeted development priorities.

### ***Optimization of Village Funds***

The use of Village Funds must be more strategic and focused on priorities while paying attention to the sustainability of long-term projects.

### ***Increasing Community Involvement***

Community involvement should be increased not only in workforce but also in project monitoring and planning to increase accountability.

With these findings, the study provides an academic basis for understanding the effectiveness of village funds in infrastructure development,

while also providing practical guidance for better development management in the future.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the results of interviews with informants in Kekait Village, the use of Village Funds for the development of road infrastructure in the Village for a decade has had a significant impact on improving community welfare. In terms of accessibility, which can facilitate transportation routes, this has a positive impact on local economic growth.

The results of this study can be used as a basis for prioritizing the use of Village Funds in Kekait Village, which has a very positive impact on the welfare of the village community. Thus, this study provides a clear view of how the use of Village Funds for road infrastructure development is very good for improving community welfare, especially for social and economic aspects.

## **FURTHER STUDY**

The following are suggestions for further research:

### ***Long Term Effectiveness Analysis***

Further research can be conducted using a longitudinal approach to evaluate the effectiveness of the use of Village Funds in road infrastructure development over time because this is quite important to understand the sustainability of economic and social impacts.

### ***Comparison with Other Villages***

Comparative research with other villages that also received Village Funds for road infrastructure can provide different perspectives on the successes and unique challenges faced by other villages.

### ***Community Participation Study***

More in-depth research can be conducted to understand the factors that influence the level of community participation, as well as how to increase community involvement in project monitoring planning.

### ***Technology Integration in Village Infrastructure***

Further studies could explore how technologies, such as project monitoring applications or material innovations, can improve the efficiency and quality of rural infrastructure development.

### ***Gender Analysis in Infrastructure Development***

Examining how road construction impacts different population groups, including women, youth and other vulnerable groups, can provide insights for more inclusive planning.

By developing this research area, further studies can make a greater contribution in optimizing the use of Village Funds, supporting sustainable development, and improving community welfare.

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