



Implementation of Village Infrastructure Development Policy In Surawangi Village, Jatiwangi District, Majalengka Regency

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Abstract

Background. The development of village infrastructure plays a vital role in improving the welfare of its community. Adequate infrastructure not only supports the economy and social development of the community, but also plays a role as the main foundation for the progress and equitable distribution of village development

Aims. This study aims to analyze the implementation of village road development policies, especially village road construction, in Surawangi Village, Jatiwangi District, Majalengka Regency.

Methods. The research method employed is a descriptive qualitative approach, with a primary focus on George C. Edwards III's policy implementation theory, which encompasses four key variables: communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic structure.

Result. The results of the study indicate that the policy has been implemented, but it faces several obstacles. Communication in road construction has not been optimal due to a gap between the implementers of activities. The resources for constructing this road have been well utilized, as tools and materials have been readily available. The disposition of the implementers of road construction is quite positive, marked by high commitment, but it has not been supported by adequate administrative compliance. A formal road construction bureaucratic structure has been established; however, weaknesses remain in coordination, documentation, and procedural efficiency.

Conclusion. This study concludes that strengthening communication, capacity building, and bureaucratic reform at the village level are needed to support the implementation of more effective, participatory, and sustainable policies.

Implementation. Village government regarding village development infrastructure, namely in terms of communication, it can be done in open village deliberations, and it can be done by creating WhatsApp groups to facilitate communication between implementers

Keywords: Policy Implementation, Village Infrastructure Development, Development Policy, Bureaucratic Structure, Administration.



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INTRODUCTION

The development of village infrastructure plays a vital role in improving the welfare of its community. Adequate infrastructure not only supports the economy and social development of the community but also plays a role as the main foundation for the progress and equitable distribution of village development. The development of infrastructure in the village can improve the lives of people in rural areas. This can strengthen connectivity between regions, opening access in the fields of education, health, and the economy. In Indonesia, the central government, through Law Number 6 of 2014, Article 26, paragraphs (1) and (2), and Article 78 concerning Villages, gives autonomy to villages to plan and implement infrastructure development independently by utilizing village funds.

However, the implementation of this development policy still often faces several obstacles, including limited human resources, as well as poor governance by the village government. Additionally, the weak implementation of village development policies can create infrastructure barriers. This is in line with the findings of research conducted by (Lestari et al., 2015) Regarding the implementation of rural infrastructure development policies, the study found a discrepancy between planning and implementation in the field, influenced by various factors such as low community participation, limited funds, and a low quality of human resources implementing the policies.

In the context of public policy, (Dye, 2013) states that public policy is "*what governments do, why they do it, and what difference it makes.*" This means that public policy reflects the government's actual actions in addressing public problems, which can be observed through government policies, the motives and objectives behind those policies, and their impact on people's lives. Therefore, policy studies are not only limited to the content of the policy, but must also include the implementation process and its outcomes. With this approach, village infrastructure development policies need to be analyzed holistically to assess whether the policy is truly capable of improving the quality of life for village communities.

Furthermore, the theory of policy implementation developed by (Edwards III, 1980) stated that there are four main factors that determine the success of policy implementation, namely communication, resources, disposition (attitude of implementers), and bureaucratic structure. The implementation of public policy can be analyzed based on these four determining factors. If one of the four factors is weak, then it is likely that the policy implementation will not achieve the expected results.

This condition is also reflected in Suawangi Village, Jatiwangi District, Majalengka Regency. Although this village receives the Village Fund allocation every year, several obstacles remain in infrastructure development, including non-participatory planning, low management capacity, and weak supervision of project implementation. This situation highlights a gap between policy design and its implementation on the ground, which deserves further study.

In general, infrastructure development policies in Surawangi Village are implemented in five areas: government, development, community empowerment, community development, and emergency disaster management. Some of the Surawangi Village government programs that have been implemented include the procurement of library space, road and bridge repairs, and food security programs.

However, this research is focused on one field, namely development, especially road infrastructure development, because village roads are one of the most vital village infrastructures. Village roads play a crucial role because they are a link between regions and facilitate access to public service centers. Adequate road infrastructure can enhance the productivity of villagers, expedite the transportation of agricultural products to the market, facilitate access to education and healthcare, and support other development activities. On the other hand, damaged or unsuitable road conditions can hamper the village economy and worsen the quality of public services.

Therefore, this study is directed to analyze how the implementation of infrastructure development policies, especially in the field of road infrastructure development in Surawangi Village, Surawangi District, Majalengka Regency, is viewed from the perspective of policy implementation theory by Edwards III. The research aims to assess the extent to which the policy aligns with its initial objectives, which is expected to make an empirical and theoretical contribution to strengthening the practice of public policy implementation at the village level, particularly in the development of participatory and sustainable rural infrastructure.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Public policy is a series of decisions made by the government in an effort to solve public problems. According to (Dye, 2002) Public policy is "*whatever governments choose to do or not to do* (whatever the government decides to do or not do). This definition emphasizes that public policy includes not only the active actions of the government, but also the decision not to take certain actions on an issue. (Dye, 2013) It also states that the study of public policy is

not only limited to the actions taken by the government, but also to the purpose or motive behind these actions, as well as their impact on society.

The implementation of public policy is an important stage for policy formulation. This stage can be seen from how the success rate of a village policy in achieving the goals it formulates. (Kasmad, 2013) explained that policy implementation does not only involve technical implementation in the field, but is also closely related to the interaction between actors, resources, communication, and socio-political conditions that affect the policy. According to him, the success of the implementation is influenced by the clarity of objectives, bureaucratic support, and community involvement.

(Augustine, 2016) It also states that policy implementation should be viewed as a complex and dynamic process, rather than just an administrative activity. He emphasized that the success of the policy is highly dependent on the ability of implementers in the field to interpret and apply policies in accordance with the local context they face. In the village context, this means that infrastructure development policies must be tailored to the needs and characteristics of the local community.

The success rate of the implementation of a policy is influenced by four factors, as expressed by (Edwards III, 1980) namely: (1) communication, (2) resources, (3) executive disposition or attitude, and (4) bureaucratic structure. These four variables are very relevant to analyzing the process of implementing village infrastructure development policies.

Based on the results of the research that has been carried out, in general, basic infrastructure is feasible as a condition for improving the quality of life and economic growth in the community by paying attention to the potential of each village, so that the implementation of diverse and innovative infrastructure processes can be implemented, but the implementation in the field is still experiencing limitations in infrastructure such as road access, and the capacity of village institutions in infrastructure development still low.

The Edwards III model is particularly suitable for analyzing the implementation of infrastructure development policies in villages because these variables can be identified concretely in development activities, such as the procurement of village roads, drainage, bridges, and other facilities

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive research design. According to (Creswell, 2014) Qualitative descriptive research aims to describe in detail how the

implementation of village infrastructure development policies is carried out, including identifying supporting and inhibiting factors. This approach was chosen because it is suitable for examining social realities in depth and holistically, especially in understanding the process of implementing infrastructure development policies in Surawangi. In this study, data collection techniques included in-depth interviews and direct observation with village heads, village secretaries, and village treasurers related to the implementation of Surawangi Village development policies, which were presented through documentation media.

The researcher employed the first analysis technique, namely data reduction, which aimed to select the raw data obtained in the field. After the research data is filtered in a relevant and significant manner, it is presented in the form of a narrative, allowing the information to be easily understood. In the next stage, the researcher begins to formulate his findings and verify the data and ensure that the conclusions are valid and consistent to ensure the validity and reliability of the data, this study uses source triangulation, which is to compare information from various informants, the goal is so that the researcher can ensure that the data he gets is not one-sided and can reflect a more objective and comprehensive picture of the results research.

DISCUSSION

Communication

The study's results indicate that communication between policymakers, implementers, and the community is not fully optimal. Information about the goals and content of village road construction policies is very clearly conveyed through a deliberative forum. However, in its implementation, there is a gap between the activities, such as budget details, work, and implementation procedures, that are poorly understood by the activity implementation team (TPK).

Resources

Based on the researcher's findings, village funds for road construction activities in the village have indeed been allocated under the APBDs. However, there are still some obstacles, namely delays in the verification stage of accountability documents at the previous stage.

The availability of human resources is also a challenge in itself. TPKs who have experience in previous village projects, such as work volume, material quality, and technical supervision, are still limited. Not all TPKs understand technical standards and still rely on the

previous year's project. Additionally, the availability of basic development data remains a challenge, as data on road conditions, infrastructure priority needs, and development projections have not been well-documented. However, on the other hand, the support of equipment and materials is quite optimal.

The results of the above findings show that the support of tools and materials has been adequate and functions optimally in supporting the implementation of village road development policies.

Disposition

The study's findings indicate that policy implementers demonstrate a high level of commitment and enthusiasm in implementing village road development policies. This is demonstrated through their ability to compile work schedules, coordinate local workers, and ensure that work progresses according to the planned stages.

The above findings indicate a positive trend, characterized by a proactive and responsible attitude, driven by local social values. However, this attitude has not been fully balanced with administrative and technical compliance, which is a crucial aspect of public policy accountability.

Bureaucratic Structure

The results of the study show that, in the implementation of the road construction policy in Surawangi Village, a bureaucratic structure has been formally established by the relevant regulations. The Activity Implementation Team (TPK) has carried out its respective roles. The implementation of coordination between village institutional units, such as between the village government, TPK, and BPD, is ongoing but still informal. Some important decisions, including technical changes on the ground, are often only discussed orally between the Village Head and the TPK Chairman without official documentation.

The procedure for disbursing funds through the village financial system (Siskeudes) operates systematically, but is hindered by bureaucratic administrative obstacles. Several stages of verification, both at the village and sub-district levels, are still considered time-consuming, especially when there is a shortage of supporting documents.

The results of the above findings indicate that the bureaucratic structure for implementing village road development policies has been formally established and implemented, but it is not entirely effective. The imbalance between the speed of decisions and

the principle of accountability, the lack of documentation, and the complex administrative procedures indicate that bureaucratic reform at the village level still requires strengthening.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the road construction policy in Surawangi Village demonstrates that, although the project has progressed according to plan, several key aspects still pose obstacles. Policy communication has not been fully effective due to the lack of clarity of technical information at the implementation level. In terms of resources, the support of tools and materials is optimal, but the capacity of human resources and the availability of technical data are still limited. The implementing disposition demonstrates high commitment and initiative; however, it has not been balanced with adequate administrative compliance. The bureaucratic structure has been formally formed, but there are still weaknesses in coordination, documentation, and procedural efficiency. Therefore, improvements in communication aspects, strengthening implementation capacity, and simplifying bureaucracy are the keys to increasing the effectiveness of policy implementation at the village level.

IMPLEMENTATION

As a researcher, I provide recommendations to the village government regarding village development infrastructure, specifically in terms of communication, which can be facilitated through open village deliberations or by creating WhatsApp groups to enhance communication between implementers. In addition, human resources need improvement, which can be achieved by holding training sessions, selecting an experienced implementation team, and involving residents to help build roads, thereby further accelerating their implementation.

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