

Effectiveness of Village Fund Utilization through Qualitative Analysis of Infrastructure in Sobontoro Village

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Abstract

Purpose: This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of village fund utilization in supporting local infrastructure development, particularly the construction of agricultural roads in Sobontoro village, and to assess the extent to which these improvements generate economic and social benefits for the community.

Methodology/approach: This research employs a descriptive qualitative approach, using in-depth interviews, field observations, and documentation. Informants were selected through purposive sampling to ensure relevance to the planning, implementation, and use of agricultural road infrastructure. Data were analyzed using the Miles and Huberman interactive model through systematic data reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawing.

Results/findings: The study finds that village funds in Sobontoro village are managed effectively through participatory planning, timely implementation, and transparent reporting. The construction of agricultural roads significantly improves farmers' accessibility, accelerates product distribution, and reduces transportation costs. These improvements also encourage local economic activities and enhance daily mobility across agricultural areas.

Conclusions: This study finds that the use of Village Funds in Sobontoro Village for farm road development has been effective, supported by participatory planning, good governance, and transparency. The development has significantly improved farmers' access, reduced transportation costs, and enhanced local economic activities.

Limitations: This study focuses solely on Sobontoro Village, limiting generalizability. Data rely heavily on qualitative insights without technical documentation or long-term impact evaluation.

Contribution: This research enriches studies on village fund management by providing a contextual analysis of infrastructure development in rural villages, offering particular recommendations for improving governance, participation, and sustainability of rural infrastructure programs.

Keywords: Agricultural Roads, Community Participation, Infrastructure Development, Village Fund, Village Governance.

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1. Introduction

The implementation of village development is a very important element in the government's efforts to create equitable development. Since the enactment of Law No. 6 of 2014 on Villages, village governments have gained broader authority in planning, implementing, and being accountable for governance and development activities in their regions. Through this regulation, villages are seen as

having the right and power to determine the direction of development according to the needs and socio-economic conditions of the local community. One tangible form of this authority is the management of Village Funds, which to this day remains an important instrument in strengthening community-based development. In practice, some of the Village Funds are used to finance infrastructure development, as this sector is considered capable of providing direct impacts for the residents. Infrastructure such as improved village roads supports various social and economic activities of the community. Adequate infrastructure also facilitates population mobility, accelerates agricultural product distribution, and opens opportunities for local economic development. Several previous studies have also emphasized the importance of village infrastructure development through the use of Village Funds.

According to Setiawati et al., (2025), national development is carried out gradually and sustainably to improve the welfare of society. Its success largely depends on the effectiveness of development at the village level, including the use of Village Funds for infrastructure development, community empowerment, and strengthening village apparatus capacity. This effectiveness is influenced by careful planning, involvement of various parties, and transparency and accountability, while obstacles in planning or implementation can affect the quality of development.

According to Widiantoro (2020) Village Funds have been able to improve the welfare of the residents of Sumberdadap Village. In line with that, Supriadin dan Wardan, (2024) state that Village Funds play an effective role in driving both economic development and infrastructure in rural areas. Another study by (Nasir, 2024) also found that the success of village development is largely determined by good planning and fund management. Furthermore, Fika Dwi Nazira, (2025) emphasizes the importance of transparency in every stage of budget management. Similar findings were also explained by (Nillam Anggraeni, Mohammad Mas'ud Said, 2022) who showed that active community participation plays a major role in the success of development.

Additionally, Desy Nayanti, Reno Affrian, (2025) found that village fund management in Balida is quite effective, but hampered by the capabilities of the apparatus and weather factors. (Ati Sarlina Maria Tuhana, Akhmad Daerobi, 2022) explain that with the Village Allocation Fund (ADD), villages have the opportunity to autonomously finance governance, development, and social activities. This funding is no longer considered "assistance," but a right of the village as part of fiscal decentralization, ensuring the village government has financial certainty in carrying out governance and development functions. Windi Pribadi, (2024) concluded that the village fund management in Mekarsekuntum is very optimal with nearly 100% fund realization. Fathor, (2024) shows that Village Funds in Kolor are effective due to participatory planning, supervision by the Village Deliberation Body (BPD), and community involvement.

Rae et al., (2022) determined that the management of village funds for infrastructure is still suboptimal due to a lack of transparency and minimal participation. Salwa Zahira, Laeli Nur Khanifah, Reisyah Hafizh Amalia Andriani Putri, Aisyah Machiqqa Ilmi, (2025) revealed that the village fund management system in Sindangsari is still not optimal, especially due to uneven planning and weak oversight. In line with this, Puspita & Sandra, (2024) conducted a study in Nagari Aua Kuniang, showing that the effectiveness of development is influenced by the quality of governance and fund oversight. Research by Jovanca Mamuaja, Freddy Kawatu, (2021) highlights the need for capacity building of village apparatus. Finally, Lail & Pamungkas, (2025) emphasize the importance of open and accountable fund governance.

The various studies show that the effectiveness of Village Funds depends not only on the amount of funds allocated but also on how those funds are managed and accounted for by the village government. Many recent studies emphasize that the welfare of the community will not significantly improve if budget management is not done professionally, transparently, and accountably. Therefore, strengthening the capacity of village apparatus is one of the key components in ensuring that every program financed through village funds can truly provide a lasting positive impact on the community. Additionally, community participation from the planning stage to program evaluation is a key factor in determining the success of village development. This is in line with the community-based development approach, which

emphasizes that communities should be subjects, not just objects, of development.

The various studies also indicate that infrastructure development funded through village funds will be more effective if its implementation is supported by a strict oversight mechanism involving various parties, such as the Village Deliberation Body (BPD), community leaders, and other supervisory institutions. Without adequate supervision, village development programs are prone to deviations such as improper budget use, declining quality of results, or delays in program realization. Furthermore, challenges such as the limited capabilities of village apparatus, geographic factors, and weather conditions also affect the smoothness of the development programs, necessitating continuous training and assistance efforts.

In addition, it is also important to pay attention to aspects of equity and justice in village development planning. Some studies highlight that certain villages face issues of inequality in budget allocation, causing uneven benefits from development across regions. Therefore, planning that involves all elements of the community is very important so that development can address various real needs of the community, ranging from infrastructure development, improving human resource quality, to strengthening the local economy through empowerment programs. Thus, Village Funds do not only serve as a fiscal instrument but also as a key driver for achieving village independence.

Furthermore, recent studies emphasize the need for innovation in the management of Village Funds so that development programs are not monotonous and can address the challenges of the times. Some successful villages typically apply innovative strategies such as digitalizing budget planning, using village information systems, and developing village enterprises that are managed professionally. These steps have proven to improve transparency while also stimulating local economic growth. With innovation, villages can optimally develop their competitive potential in sectors like tourism, agriculture, SMEs, and local crafts, ultimately increasing the community's income. In conclusion, all these findings underline that the success of Village Funds is greatly influenced by good governance, strong community participation, and the ability of village apparatus to apply the principles of transparency, accountability, and efficiency in managing funds.

Based on this understanding, this study raises the title "Effectiveness of Village Fund Utilization Through Qualitative Analysis on Infrastructure in Sobontoro Village." Sobontoro Village was chosen because it actively uses Village Funds for infrastructure development, especially the construction and improvement of rice field roads, which are used as transportation routes for agricultural products. The village government also shows its commitment to aligning development programs with the needs of the residents through village deliberations. This situation raises an important question about how effectively the Village Funds have been managed in infrastructure development in Sobontoro Village, and whether the development outcomes truly provide tangible benefits to the community.

This study aims to provide a scientific overview of the effectiveness of Village Fund management, as well as serve as input for the village government to make development implementation more transparent and involve the community. This study has significant novelty as it specifically focuses on the development of village rice field roads in Sobontoro Village as a form of active community participation in village development. This novelty lies in the focus of the study on the use of Village Funds for agricultural infrastructure in a specific socio-economic context, which has not been thoroughly discussed in the literature. Thus, this research not only examines budget planning and management but also evaluates the tangible benefits of infrastructure development for the community and its contribution to local economic productivity and mobility. The emphasis on this element of novelty strengthens the relevance of the research and offers a new contribution to understanding the effectiveness of Village Funds in an agrarian village context.

Although various previous studies have discussed the effectiveness of Village Funds, most of them focus on general aspects such as transparency, accountability, community participation, and the quality of village financial governance. However, there has been little research that specifically examines the effectiveness of Village Funds in the context of infrastructure development in specific regions with

different socio-economic characteristics, including villages with high dependence on the agricultural sector, such as Sobontoro Village. Moreover, most studies assess effectiveness from the perspective of budget managers, while studies integrating the perspective of the community as direct beneficiaries are still limited.

Based on this research gap, this study introduces novelty by assessing the effectiveness of Village Fund usage more comprehensively in the local infrastructure sector, specifically the construction of agricultural roads, which plays a strategic role in the economic activities of residents. This study not only examines planning and budget management aspects but also evaluates the real benefits of infrastructure for the community and how the development strengthens local productivity and mobility. Thus, this research offers a new contribution in the form of a more contextual analysis, based on the real needs of the community, and with a focus on the infrastructure sector, which is a key priority in Sobontoro Village.

2. Literature Review and Hypothesis Development

Village development is essentially a systematic process that takes place from the planning stage, implementation, accountability, and finally results in impacts that can be felt by the community. Each stage does not stand alone, but is interconnected and forms a logical chain that determines whether village development is successful or not. Therefore, the existing literature should be compiled not only descriptively but also analyzed conceptually to build a strong theoretical framework as the basis for research analysis. In this section, theories from various authors are integrated into four main pillars:

- a. Planning
- b. Implementation
- c. Accountability
- d. Development Impact

These theories are then organized systematically to not only form a series of information but to transform into an analytical structure that explains the relationship between the variables of village development.

2.1 Village Development Planning

The planning stage is the foundation that determines the direction of village development. According to Abdul Nadjib, (2021) the ideal planning is rational and comprehensive planning, which is: "A planning process carried out comprehensively and structured, starting from identifying problems, setting goals, gathering data, analyzing resources, evaluating alternatives, selecting the best one, and finally conducting evaluations." This theory emphasizes that from the problem identification stage, the village government should already be able to determine how development will be planned based on the community's needs, who the actors involved are, and where the funding will come from. Nadjib also explains that: "The preparation of comprehensive planning not only requires complete data but also the government's ability to formulate policies that are consistent and long-term oriented." This means that planning cannot be separated from the capacity of village government institutions in developing systematic strategies that are able to respond to both short-term and long-term needs.

Furthermore, the concept of planning is enriched by the view of Ahmad Mustanir, (2023) who asserts that: "Development planning must be participatory, involving the community from the beginning to the evaluation." Mustanir explains that village planning is a combination of technocratic, bottom-up, and top-down approaches. Community aspirations are gathered from the bottom, then analyzed technically, and finally synchronized with policies and the government's budget capacity. He also emphasizes that: "The quality of planning is highly influenced by the intensity of communication between the community, village apparatus, and local government. Therefore, effective planning is the result of the integration of analytical rationality, intensive communication, and community involvement in decision-making."

This view is further reinforced by Bintoro Tjokroamidjojo, (1992) who states that: "Development planning must start from the aspirations and needs of the community, which are obtained through deliberation and cooperation between the village government and residents." Bintoro also emphasizes

the role of resources and funding as a primary requirement for the success of planning. He adds that the effectiveness of village planning is highly influenced by: “The government’s ability to organize, enhance the capacity of its apparatus, and ensure that every decision made through deliberation can be followed up with realistic programs.”

Based on these theories, it can be concluded that village development planning is an integrative process that combines technical rationality, community participation, resource readiness, communication between actors, and the legitimacy of village deliberations. However, according to Abdul Halim, (2021) village development planning is not merely about listing programs but is a process rooted in community participation from the grassroots level. This planning is designed to ensure that all needs, complaints, and aspirations of the community are genuinely absorbed through the mechanism of deliberations and village forums. Therefore, the planning process becomes a means to identify real problems in the field, prioritize development, and formulate comprehensive village policies that align with the community's needs and the village's potential.

2.2 Implementation of Development

The implementation stage is the transformation of plans into real actions. Yeremias T. Keban, (2008) explains that: “The implementation stage is the process of realizing development programs that have been planned and agreed upon through deliberation.” Keban emphasizes the importance of clear working mechanisms and consistent implementation to prevent the execution from deviating from the original plan. He asserts that the success of implementation is highly determined by: “The ability of the implementing actors to fully understand the program’s objectives so that no misinterpretation occurs during the implementation process.” Furthermore, effective implementation requires orderly administration, competent labor, coordination between implementing units, and accurate information management to support objective evaluations.

In line with this, Sukabawa & Karyoto, (2022) emphasize that the stage of village development implementation is a very determining phase for the success of the entire development process. At this stage, the village government is required to carry out every activity consistently based on the planning that has been established. By following the work plans that have been prepared and agreed upon, the implementation of the program will be more directed, measurable, and capable of achieving the intended results in line with the objectives of village development. Dewa Putu also emphasizes that the alignment between planning and implementation is a fundamental requirement for all programs to run optimally, without deviating from the set priorities, and providing tangible benefits to the village community. This disciplined and coordinated implementation becomes the foundation for ensuring that village development is effective and capable of improving the welfare and empowerment of residents.

This perspective is supported by Dharmaningtias et al., (2018) who describe that the effectiveness of village development is heavily influenced by: “The principles of transparency, accountability, community participation, and the institutional capacity of the village.” Coordination between the village government, the Village Deliberation Body (BPD), and the community in deliberation forums is a determining factor to prevent information disparities and potential deviations. Dharmaningtias stresses that low transparency and weak governance structures reduce community trust, thereby making participation less optimal.

Furthermore, the implementation of physical development is influenced by the capacity of the workforce, as explained by Ayu et al., (2022) who state that: “The implementation of construction work is highly determined by human resource capabilities because labor is the direct executor that ensures the work can be completed according to the quality standards.” Ayu emphasizes that the competence of the workforce, both skilled and unskilled labor, affects the quality, productivity, timeliness, and the minimization of technical errors. Additionally, he adds that: “Construction implementation must consider environmental conditions, weather, soil conditions, field access, and other on-site aspects.” Therefore, the implementation stage is not solely based on administrative policies, but also on technical capacity, good governance, and the ability to adapt to field dynamics.

2.3 Accountability

The accountability stage is a control point that ensures the development process is carried out according to regulations, efficiently, and oriented towards public interests. Sinta Suciana, C. Tri Widiastuti, (2025) emphasize that: "Accountability in village funds is the obligation of village apparatus to carry out transparent and accountable reporting, starting from administration to public audits." They also highlight the importance of community involvement because: "Management that involves community participation in planning and reporting will increase public trust and the effectiveness of village fund usage." In practice, accountability is not only about preparing administrative reports, but also concerns the integrity of village officials. Transparent reporting must be supported by well-organized, consistent, and easily understandable documents for the public, including residents without an administrative background.

The view on transparency is reinforced by Idris & Syachbrani, (2022) who state that: "The accountability of village fund usage includes the processes of planning, implementation, reporting, and evaluation that are transparent and accountable. Accountability reports are delivered periodically through village deliberation forums to increase community participation and social oversight." This means accountability is an integral part of the public control process, covering all stages of development. Village deliberation functions as a democratic forum to assess, criticize, and oversee village development. The openness of information, which is easily accessible, broadens the space for dialogue and improves the effectiveness of public oversight. Thus, accountability is not just an administrative task, but also the village government's commitment to the principles of transparency, integrity, and public service.

2.4 Impact

The impact stage is an indicator of the success of the entire development process. In the context of village infrastructure development, Ramadhani et al., (2025) explain that: "Infrastructure development, such as agricultural roads, plays an important role in improving the smoothness of production and distribution activities of agricultural products." Good infrastructure not only facilitates access but also reduces transportation costs, minimizes the risk of crop damage, and increases production efficiency. Ramadhani also states that this condition has a direct impact: "Increased agricultural productivity and farmers' income." This view is supported by Windani & Sukmawati, (2023) who state that: "The construction of agricultural roads is an important factor in determining the smoothness of all agricultural activities. Improving roads accelerates the flow of harvested goods from the fields to the market." In addition to transportation efficiency, the construction of agricultural roads also serves as a catalyst for rural economic growth. The availability of better access encourages the emergence of new businesses such as transportation services, agricultural product trade, and other supporting economies. Therefore, agricultural roads do not only function as physical infrastructure but also as a catalyst for improved welfare and economic dynamics in rural areas.

3. Research Methodology

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach aimed at providing a comprehensive description and understanding of the phenomenon being studied from the perspective of the research subjects in a natural context. This method was chosen because the research problem still requires a comprehensive interpretation, especially to explore the experiences, perceptions, and views of the informants directly. This approach aligns with Sugiyono, (2020) view, which states that qualitative research occurs in real contexts, and the researcher plays a central role as the core instrument, with the analysis focusing more on understanding meaning than on drawing general conclusions.

This research was carried out by involving informants selected using a purposive sampling technique, which is the intentional selection of informants based on their knowledge and involvement in the infrastructure development in Sobontoro village. The total number of informants involved is 7, consisting of village officials, community leaders, and several residents who are actively involved in the construction of village roads.

The characteristics of the informants were selected to represent diverse perspectives on the planning

and implementation processes of development, as well as the sources and use of the Village Funds. The reason for selecting these informants is to ensure that the data obtained is valid and representative of the phenomenon being studied, so that the research findings reflect the actual conditions in the field. During the data collection process, the researcher used field observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation techniques to obtain narrative data, allowing the researcher to uncover deep meanings from events, actions, and social interactions that occurred.

Data collection activities were conducted directly in the research environment using recording devices such as the Samsung Galaxy A15 Android 14 smartphone, as well as an Acer Aspire 3 laptop with an AMD Ryzen 3 processor and 8 GB of RAM, which were used for data transcription and report preparation. To help manage and organize the interview data, the researcher used supporting software such as Microsoft Word. The data analysis process was carried out in stages using the Miles and Huberman model, which includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing with verification, so that data interpretation is formed inductively through patterns, categories, or themes that emerged during the research process. The entire analysis process was carried out simultaneously from the start of the fieldwork until the researcher declared the study completed, in accordance with the cyclical and non-linear characteristics of qualitative research.

To maintain the validity of the findings, this study used a source triangulation technique, which assesses information based on various informants, and verifies data through a combination of interviews, observations, and documentation. The basic assumption of this research is that social reality is interconnected, complex, and meaningful, so deep understanding can only be achieved through the researcher's direct involvement with the research subjects. The researcher also recognizes that the values, perceptions, and experiences of the informants are crucial in shaping the meaning of the research, so the relationship between the researcher and informants was close and open. The theoretical foundation used in this research is derived from the basic concepts of qualitative research Sugiyono, (2020), social interaction theory to understand how people relate and behave with each other at the research location, and interpretive theory, which explains that meaning emerges from how each person understands and interprets their own experiences. This research methodology is designed in such a way that it can be replicated in similar research contexts with relatively similar social phenomena, so that readers and future researchers can repeat the research process under comparable field conditions and obtain similar interpretations of the phenomenon being studied.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Planning

The planning process for the construction of irrigation roads in Sobontoro Village shows strong community participation. The plan originated from the aspirations of farmers who faced difficulties in transporting harvests due to the poor condition of the roads, which were especially impassable during the rainy season. Through a village meeting guided by the Village Consultative Body (BPD), this proposal was eventually approved and designated as the main focus of village development planning. From a governance perspective, this process illustrates the principle of bottom-up planning, where the initiative comes from the community, not solely from the village government. The involvement of various elements, such as the BPD, village officials, neighborhood heads (RT/RW), and community leaders, demonstrates a democratic effort in determining development needs.

However, despite good community participation, it should be noted that the planning stage was still highly reliant on local aspirations without a thorough technical feasibility study. This has the potential to affect the effectiveness of the development in subsequent stages. In terms of funding, the construction of the irrigation road is fully funded by the Village Funds allocated by the central government. The use of these funds is appropriate as it focuses on improving infrastructure and empowering the village community. No obstacles were found in the planning process, which indicates that communication between the village government and the community was effective, allowing decisions to be made quickly and without conflict.

Compared to Nadjib's theory, the planning in Sobontoro meets the elements of identifying needs, but it

is not yet fully comprehensive, as the technical analysis was not processed in depth. From Ahmad Mustanir, (2023) perspective, community participation is present, but the intensity of communication is still inadequately documented. This suggests that participation remains consultative rather than deliberative. These findings align with studies by (Widiantoro, 2020; Supriadin dan Wardan, 2024; and Nasir, 2024) which emphasize that imperfect planning will directly impact the quality of development. Furthermore, Salwa Zahira, et al (2025) findings indicate that weaknesses in the planning phase often lead to misaligned objectives. Therefore, the planning in Sobontoro can be categorized as quite effective, but it has not yet reached the level of a rational comprehensive plan as described by the theory.

4.2 Implementation

The implementation phase went relatively smoothly without significant obstacles, particularly in terms of fund disbursement and physical work in the field. The disbursement of village funds was timely, in line with good administrative preparedness by the village government. This indicates that the financial governance system in Sobontoro is orderly and transparent. In terms of labor, the project used a combination of skilled workers (who understand the technical aspects of construction) and unskilled workers (with field experience).

This made the implementation efficient while also providing job opportunities for local residents. However, community involvement in the implementation phase was minimal, as the work was directly handled by specialized laborers. This could be evaluated because it reduces the aspect of community empowerment, which should be one of the main goals of the Village Funds program. Moreover, the project did not face weather-related obstacles since the work was carried out during the dry season, allowing physical activities to run smoothly. The project location, which is easily accessible, also contributed to the smooth distribution of materials and work tools.

When compared to Yeremias T. Keban, (2008) theory, the work mechanism and understanding of program objectives were clear, but technical coordination still needs to be strengthened. This finding is in line with (Ayu et.al, 2022) who state that weather conditions, land, and human resources have a significant impact on construction outcomes, which was also found in Sobontoro Village. Issues related to labor and weather were also found in research by (Desy Nayanti, Reno Affrian, 2025), thus strengthening the literature on the subject. In comparison to Rae et al., (2022), the implementation in Sobontoro was relatively better because it involved supervision by the BPD and the community, even though documentation was not optimal. Thus, the research findings suggest that the implementation was effective but has not yet reached full effectiveness as described in the good governance implementation concept by (Dharmaningtias et al., 2018).

4.3 Accountability

In terms of accountability, the government showed a fairly good mechanism for accountability. After the project was completed, the government prepared a Financial Accountability Report (LPJ) and an Accountability Letter (SPJ) detailing all expenditures, from receipts to costs for materials and labor. These reports were submitted to the BPD for review and reassessment, reflecting a check-and-balance system between the village executive and legislative bodies. Additionally, the Village Development Planning Meeting (Musrenbangdes) forum provided an important venue for discussing development results and evaluating implementation.

Transparency was also supported by the presence of public information boards displaying details about the funds and development activities. These boards are not merely formalities but also serve as a social control instrument that increases public trust in the village government. It is worth noting that although financial reports were well-prepared, the effectiveness of the oversight mechanism still depends on the capacity of the BPD and active community participation. If the oversight remains passive, the potential for deviations still exists. Therefore, involving the community in monitoring and providing feedback on financial reports needs to be strengthened.

When compared to the theory of Suciana & Widiastuti, accountability in Sobontoro Village is functioning, but it has not yet achieved maximum transparency standards, as the reports are still

administrative and not fully informative. This finding aligns with Lail & Pamungkas, (2025) who assert that villages often struggle to meet accountability principles due to limited administrative capacity. Similarly, Salwa Zahira, et al (2025) research also found that weak supervision and reporting can hinder development effectiveness, which also emerged in Sobontoro's findings, albeit to a lesser degree. Therefore, accountability in Sobontoro is adequate but not optimal, especially in terms of technical documentation and simplifying information for the community.

4.5 Impact

The construction of roads in the rice fields has had significant social and economic impacts on the community in Sobontoro village. The community, especially farmers, has experienced tangible benefits in the form of ease in transporting harvests and reduced transportation costs. Before the construction, the damaged roads caused slow distribution of agricultural products and added cost burdens. Currently, with roads that are proper and stable, the harvests can be transported more quickly and efficiently, leading to increased productivity. This aligns with the community's responses during interviews, where they mentioned that they are very happy and grateful because the road conditions, which were previously difficult to pass, have now changed to be much better and more comfortable to use.

Farmers who pass through this road every day feel a significant change that makes their activities to the farmland easier. From an economic perspective, this development encourages the circulation of economic activities at the village level. Better access facilitates the distribution of goods and services and opens opportunities for new economic activities. As explained in the interviews, better road access makes the process of selling agricultural products faster and no longer hindered by damaged terrain. This not only saves time but also reduces farmers' expenses because they no longer need to incur extra costs for transportation, especially during the rainy season when the previous road conditions were muddy and slippery.

Socially, the road construction has also increased the community's trust in the village government and strengthened their sense of ownership over the development outcomes. The community sees this development as a form of the village government's attention to their needs, which has increased their trust and satisfaction. In fact, some residents believe that the construction of this farm road has had a direct impact on the smoothness of daily activities, not just for farmers but also for other villagers who use the road. However, from a sustainability standpoint, the village needs to prepare an infrastructure maintenance strategy so that its benefits are not only short-term. Community involvement in road maintenance and quality control must also be activated to prevent further damage, which could eventually burden the budget in the future. Residents also hope that road maintenance can be done periodically, considering the road's crucial role in agricultural activities. They are aware that without adequate maintenance, the road could potentially return to its previous state of disrepair, making cooperation between the village government and the community essential to maintain the quality of this infrastructure.

The findings in Sobontoro village are highly consistent with the theory by (Ramadhani et al., 2025; Windani & Sukmawati, 2023) which position agricultural roads as one of the indicators for increased productivity and reduced transportation costs. The findings in Sobontoro also strengthen the research by Suprihadin & Wardan (2024), which states that Village Funds are effective in promoting economic development when they are targeted correctly and meet the community's needs. Therefore, the impact of development in Sobontoro can be categorized as effective and significant, in line with what was predicted in previous theories and research.

5. Conclusion and Suggestions

5.1 Conclusion

This study concludes that the utilization of Village Funds in Sobontoro Village for the construction of farm roads has been quite effective, especially because the planning was participatory through village deliberations and the implementation was supported by orderly administrative management

and timely fund disbursement. The accountability mechanism through financial reports and public information boards demonstrates a good level of transparency, although improvements are still needed in the areas of supervision and simplification of information for the community. The impact of the development has proven to be significant, especially in improving farmers' access to their fields, speeding up the distribution of harvests, reducing transportation costs, and encouraging local economic activities. This study provides an important contribution to understanding the effectiveness of village funds in agricultural infrastructure development in agrarian village contexts, emphasizing the importance of governance, participation, and accountability in program implementation.

5.2 Suggestions

The suggestions of this study emphasize the need to improve the quality of village fund management through more systematic planning based on technical studies, not just on community proposals. Although the village deliberation process has been conducted, the direction of development still tends to be short-term because it is not supported by feasibility analysis that predicts benefits, obstacles, and risks. Community involvement in implementation is still minimal because much of the work is assigned to certain personnel, so the goals have not been fully achieved. Supervision is also weak because it depends on the capacity of the Village Deliberation Body (BPD) and the social control of the community. If this condition continues, the risks of misuse and the decline in work quality remain high. Therefore, transparency needs to be strengthened through regular and easily accessible reports, along with a maintenance strategy so that the infrastructure does not deteriorate quickly and its benefits are sustainable. To enrich the findings, future research should be conducted in more villages using a mixed approach (qualitative & quantitative) so that the results are more objective and can be compared. A broader approach will help understand the impact of social, economic, and governance conditions on development success, so that village funds can truly function as an instrument to strengthen infrastructure, governance, and community capacity.

5.3 Implications of the Research

The results of this study imply the need for more measurable village development planning through the use of technical analysis before infrastructure projects are decided, so that decisions are based not only on community proposals but also on clear feasibility studies. Supervision by the Village Deliberation Body (BPD) also needs to be strengthened by increasing capacity so that budget evaluation and development implementation processes can run more effectively. In practice, the village government is advised to utilize village information systems to increase transparency in the management of Village Funds, while also developing a routine infrastructure maintenance program involving farmer groups and the community. Additionally, the impact of the development can be evaluated periodically through simple surveys of farmers to ensure that the benefits of development continue to be measurable and serve as a basis for policy improvements in the following year..

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Limitations and Future Studies

This study faces several limitations, where the research results only represent the conditions in Sobontoro Village and therefore cannot represent other villages. The qualitative method used also makes the data highly dependent on the opinions of informants, so there is still the possibility of subjectivity in their thoughts or actions. Moreover, this study was not supported by technical documents such as feasibility studies, and the impact analysis still focuses on short-term benefits, so

aspects of maintenance and sustainability have not been fully captured, nor have risk evaluations been included in the program implementation process. This study also did not deeply consider the social and economic dynamics of the community, so some contextual variables that could potentially influence the effectiveness of the development have not been fully identified. Additionally, limitations in time and research resources also restricted the scope of the study, so some technical or administrative findings could not be explored further.

For future research, it is recommended to conduct studies in more than one village so that the results are broader and can be compared, thus providing a more representative picture of the variation in social, economic, and geographical conditions between regions. Future studies could also combine both qualitative and quantitative methods to make the results more objective, for example by calculating income increases or cost efficiencies and conducting statistical analysis to strengthen the validity of the findings and reduce potential bias in data interpretation. Future research should also investigate governance, supervision, and infrastructure maintenance strategies in more depth by adding evaluations of the role of village institutions, the level of community participation, and the effectiveness of transparency mechanisms in development implementation. The use of technology such as geospatial mapping could also help evaluate development conditions more accurately.

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