IMPLEMENTATION OF VILLAGE AUTONOMY POLICY BASED ON LAW NUMBER 6 OF 2014

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Abstract
Indonesia is a highly diverse country in terms of culture, language, ethnicity, and customs, presenting a challenge in managing the diverse local interests in each region. To address this, the Indonesian government enacted Village Law No. 6 of 2014, granting villages the authority to manage natural resources, human resources, and infrastructure development within their areas. However, the implementation of village autonomy under this law still faces various challenges and obstacles. Insufficient capacity and human resources in villages, coupled with a lack of knowledge and technology, hinder effective decision-making that caters to the needs of the village community. This study aims to analyze the implementation of village autonomy policy based on Law No. 6 of 2014 in Indonesia. Using a qualitative approach with a legal perspective (Statute approach), the researchers examine the relevant laws and regulations pertaining to the legal issues at hand. The study concludes that the pre-Law No. 6 of 2014 implementation of village autonomy was limited and did not fully empower the villages.

Keywords: Authority, Law No. 6 of 2014, Resource Management, Village Autonomy

1. INTRODUCTION
Indonesia is a country with a high level of diversity, encompassing culture, language, ethnicity, and customs. Consequently, managing diverse local interests in each region poses a challenge for Indonesia. Therefore, a system is needed to empower village communities and enable them to independently manage their local interests (Edelia & Aslami, 2022).

To tackle this challenge, the Indonesian government introduced Village Law No. 6/2014. This law grants villages the authority to manage natural resources, human resources, and infrastructure development in their respective areas. Furthermore, villages are also given the right to self-determination in decision-making concerning the use of APBN and APBD village funds. This aligns with the statement by Bambang Adi (2019), which highlights that according to the provisions of Village Law No. 6/2014, villages have greater autonomy to regulate their own government affairs based on the principle of autonomy and assistance tasks.

Through Law No. 6/2014, villages are mandated to independently manage their local interests. Before the enactment of this law, decision-making in the village was regulated by the regency/city government, resulting in policies that were less responsive to the needs and aspirations of the village community. With the implementation of Law No. 6/2014, the village community has a more significant role in decision-making, which is expected to enhance their welfare.

However, the implementation of village autonomy after Law No. 6/2014 still faces various challenges and obstacles. One obstacle is the lack of capacity and human resources in the village. Many villagers still lack education and skills, making it difficult to effectively and efficiently manage resources. Additionally, limited access to
information and technology hinders the ability to make decisions that are responsive to the needs of the village community.

Another obstacle is the persistence of corruption and nepotism in the management of village funds. Some village heads and officials engage in corrupt practices, impeding infrastructure development and the empowerment of the local community. Therefore, it is crucial to establish supervision and take firm action against corruption and nepotism in the village.

Nonetheless, the implementation of village autonomy has also yielded positive impacts on village communities. It has allowed for increased participation and activity in decision-making processes. This is evident through the heightened involvement of villagers in village meetings and the formulation of village policies. Moreover, village autonomy provides opportunities for the development of local potential and the improvement of welfare through local economic growth (Triputro & Pribudi, 2022). Successful implementation of village autonomy also necessitates government support and guidance to assist village communities.

The aim of this research is to analyze the implementation of village autonomy policy based on Law Number 6 of 2014 in Indonesia. The researchers aim to identify the challenges and obstacles faced in implementing village autonomy, particularly in terms of human resources, knowledge, and decision-making processes. The research also aims to assess the extent to which village autonomy has empowered and benefited local communities.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW
2.1. Policy
A policy refers to the actions or steps taken by a government or organization to achieve specific goals or address particular problems. According to Suwitri (2008), policies related to the public are known as public policies. These policies are formulated by stakeholders, with the government being a key stakeholder aiming to meet the needs of the community based on the principle of public interest (Desrinelti et al., 2021). Government policies can have significant impacts on society and the environment, regulating various aspects such as health, education, the environment, the economy, and national security. A well-designed government policy should encompass all aspects of people's lives while considering the interests of all parties involved.

The purpose of government policies is to achieve clear and specific goals, which may include social change, improving people's welfare, or protecting the environment. Policy objectives should be measurable and subject to monitoring to ensure effective and efficient achievement. Policy effectiveness can be measured by assessing the impact of policies on society and the environment. This impact can be evaluated using various indicators, such as poverty rates, health, education, the environment, and security. An effective policy should be able to enhance these indicators and improve the overall condition of society and the environment.

Factors influencing policy-making can vary depending on the type of policy and the country responsible for its formulation. These factors may encompass political, economic, social, and environmental considerations. For instance, environmental policies can be influenced by pressure from environmental organizations, while economic policies may be influenced by pressure from industries or businesses.
2.2. Village

In his book "Otonomi Desa" Prof. Drs. Widjaja argues that a village is a legal community unit whose foundational structure is based on special initial rights, embracing concepts of diversity, participation, true autonomy, democratization, and community empowerment (Widjaja, 2003). According to Hanif Nurcholis, a village can be defined as an area inhabited by a group of people who know each other, live together, share relatively similar habits, and have their own way of organizing their social life (Nurcholis, 2005). Meanwhile, according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), a village is either an area unit inhabited by several families with its own government system led by a village head, or it can refer to a group of houses located outside a city forming a cohesive unit. According to Article 1 of Law No. 6/2014, a village is a legal community unit with territorial boundaries, having the power to regulate and manage state affairs and regional interests based on community initiatives, rights of origin, and/or traditional rights recognized and respected within the governance system of the Unitary Republic of Indonesia.

Based on the mentioned definitions, it can be concluded that a village is a hybrid organization that combines a local community with its community-based government possessing full authority. In other words, the village community has the ability and right to govern its territory with its own government system using an autonomous approach.

The problems faced by villages can vary, depending on factors that influence the village. Some common issues encountered by villages include limited resources, such as water and fertile land, as well as restricted access to infrastructure like roads and transportation. Other challenges involve high poverty rates, limited access to education and healthcare, and a lack of employment opportunities.

2.3. Village Government

According to Law No. 6/2014, the village head is elected by the village community and serves a 6-year term from the date of inauguration. During their tenure, the village head, with the assistance of the village apparatus, is responsible for managing the village government and its affairs.

2.4. Village Autonomy

Village autonomy is a government policy that grants villages the authority to manage their own government affairs and development within their respective areas (Barniat, 2019). However, village autonomy differs from provincial, district, and city autonomy. Village autonomy is based on heritage and local customs rather than government authority (Indartuti et al., 2020; Silubun et al., 2020). It aims to empower villages in managing their natural, human, and financial resources. Village autonomy also allows villages the freedom to develop their potential and strengths based on local needs and conditions.

Village autonomy plays a significant role in regional development as it provides opportunities for villages to utilize their potential and strengths according to local needs and conditions. It also enables villages to actively participate in overall regional development. Villages can serve as development agents, playing a crucial role in driving economic growth, improving human resources, and strengthening governance in their respective regions.
2.5. Law No. 6/2014 on Villages

Law No. 6/2014, commonly known as the Village Law, was enacted to restore the status of villages as legal community units. The law emphasizes democratic self-government and organizes village governance based on recognition, subsidiarity, autonomy, and heritage rights (Pamungkas, 2019). It governs village autonomy in Indonesia and was enacted on December 18, 2014, with the aim of enhancing the welfare and participation of village communities in regional development.

Law No. 6/2014 on Villages establishes villages as autonomous entities within regional governments, granting them the authority to make decisions and manage their resources independently. The objectives of Law No. 6/2014 on Villages are to support villages in improving community welfare, empowering village communities, increasing community participation in development, harnessing village potential, and enhancing governance and development within villages.

The principles outlined in Law No. 6/2014 on Villages include village autonomy, community participation, transparency, accountability, sustainable development, and justice. Since the enactment of the law, various implementations have been carried out by local governments to provide support to villages in exercising their authority. One of these implementations is the formulation of village development plans that involve the active participation of the village community.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

This research employed a qualitative approach with a statutory approach. This approach involves examining relevant laws and regulations pertaining to the legal issues under investigation (Marzuki, 2015), specifically regulations in Local Government and Village Government.

The research presents data in the form of analytical description, where the researchers provide explanations and analyses of the current issues and topics being studied, specifically the Implementation of Village Autonomy Policies based on Law Number 6 of 2014. The data used consists of secondary and tertiary data collected from legal entities, laws, and through internet research.

The findings and discussions of the conducted research are presented in the form of qualitative normative analysis, employing a descriptive and explanatory system to discuss the examined reviews related to the "Implementation of Village Autonomy Policy Based on Law Number 6 of 2014".

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Implementation of Village Autonomy Before and After the Implementation of Law No. 6/2014

Villages constitute the smallest unit of governance in Indonesia. A significant portion of government affairs is still regulated and controlled by the government at both the central and local government levels (district or city). The city can only implement what the government provides but lacks the ability to address its specific needs. Therefore, villages are granted the rights of village autonomy. Village autonomy is defined as the right, authority, and obligation to regulate and manage state affairs and
community interests based on ancestral rights and socio-cultural values that have evolved and developed within the community alongside village development (Kadir & Idris, 2021).

Certainly, regulations play a crucial role in providing legal certainty for villages in the context of village autonomy. The primary regulation governing the implementation of village autonomy is Law No. 6/2014. However, prior to the enactment of Village Law No. 6/2014, the implementation of village autonomy was governed by several earlier regulations. One of the provisions related to village autonomy before Law No. 6/2014 was the Local Government Law No. 32/2004. This resulted in Law No. 32 of 2004 no longer being responsive to changing circumstances, state administration, and the requirements of regional government (Barniat, 2019).

Law No. 32/2004 served as the legal foundation for implementing regional autonomy in Indonesia, which included village autonomy. However, the implementation of village autonomy before Law No. 6/2014 was limited and did not grant sufficient authority to villages in managing government affairs and development at the village level.

Prior to Law No. 6/2014, village governments had limited authority in specific areas such as governance, finance, and village development. However, many decisions and policies were still determined by the local or central government, leading to limitations in resource management and development at the village level. Additionally, prior to Law No. 6/2014, village financial management mechanisms were not well-structured and transparent. Villages only received a small portion of their own revenue and remained dependent on budget allocations from the local government. This hindered the implementation of village development programs and the empowerment of local communities.

The enactment of Law No. 6/2014 on Villages brought significant changes to the implementation of village autonomy in Indonesia. This law granted villages broader authority in managing government, financial, and development affairs at the village level. Villages were also given the right to manage natural and other resources within their areas. Law No. 6/2014 established a strong legal basis for community participation in decision-making and the management of village resources. Villages were expected to become independent government units capable of developing local potential and improving the welfare of the village community.

In sum, the implementation of village autonomy prior to Law No. 6/2014 was limited and did not provide sufficient authority to villages. Law No. 6/2014 represents a significant milestone in strengthening village autonomy in Indonesia and offers villages the opportunity to manage and develop their local potential, as well as improve the welfare of their communities. Moreover, this law is a vital regulation that strengthens village autonomy in Indonesia and supports the empowerment of villages in actively participating in local-level development efforts.

4.2. Problems in the Implementation of Village Autonomy Based on Law No. 6/2014

Although Law No. 6/2014 on Villages provides a strong legal basis for the implementation of village autonomy in Indonesia, several problems are still encountered in its execution. The challenges and issues include limited resources. Many villages face constraints in terms of human, financial, and infrastructure resources. Villages with these limitations struggle to manage development projects and provide adequate public services
to the community. This scarcity of resources poses an obstacle to the effective implementation of village autonomy.

Another problem is the lack of sufficient understanding and capacity at the village level. Many individuals still lack a comprehensive understanding and knowledge of the concept of village autonomy and good governance. This lack of awareness hampers the ability of villages to effectively manage resources, plan development initiatives, and carry out successful activities.

Additionally, there is a reliance on transfer funds as a major concern. Despite the financial authority granted to villages by Law No. 6/2014, many villages still heavily depend on transfer funds from local or central government sources. Villages with limited indigenous revenue potential encounter difficulties in managing their finances and meeting the developmental needs independently.

Insufficient community participation is another issue. Despite the encouragement for community involvement in decision-making processes outlined in Law No. 6/2014, there are challenges in effectively engaging the community. Lack of awareness, limited access to information, and gaps in community involvement can hinder active participation in village development initiatives.

Furthermore, there is an issue of inequality between villages. Some villages may have better access to resources, infrastructure, and development opportunities, while others face significant challenges in addressing these disparities. Such inequalities can lead to development gaps between villages and further disadvantage marginalized communities.

### 4.3. Solutions to Problems in Village Autonomy Based on Law No. 6/2014

To address the challenges in village autonomy, there are solutions that the village government can implement. One solution to address limited resources, including human resources, finances, and infrastructure, is collaboration between villages. Villages with limited resources can collaborate and cooperate, sharing human resources, expertise, and development management experiences. Through this collaboration, villages can support one another and optimize the use of available resources more effectively.

Another solution is to adopt a participatory approach. In managing limited resources, active involvement of the community in decision-making is crucial. A participatory approach allows villagers to identify development priorities that align with local needs and capabilities. By engaging the community, villages can make more efficient use of existing resources.

Improving access to external resources is another solution. Villages with limited resources can seek external support, such as assistance from the central government, local governments, or donor agencies. They can submit development project proposals that consider the specific needs and potential of their villages. Additionally, utilizing information and communication technology can help villages access valuable information and resources.

Enhancing the village's financial management capacity is essential. Villages need to improve their financial management capabilities, including increasing transparency and accountability in the utilization of village funds. Training and mentorship in finance and village administrative management can assist villages in optimizing the use of limited financial resources. Lastly, partnering with the private sector and non-governmental organizations is a valuable solution. Villages can establish partnerships with these entities
to gain support for village development. Partnerships may involve financial assistance, technical support, or capacity building through training programs. Collaborating with the private sector can also create investment opportunities and foster local economic development.

Addressing the lack of understanding and capacity at the village level can be achieved through training and education initiatives. The government can provide specialized training and education for village officials and the community as a whole. This training should cover various aspects such as village governance, financial management, development planning, and community empowerment. By enhancing education and training opportunities, villagers can develop a better understanding of the concept and implementation of village autonomy.

Implementing mentoring and assistance programs is another solution. Competent parties, such as local governments or non-governmental organizations, can offer expert guidance and support to village officials and communities in managing development and decision-making processes.

Improving access to information is crucial. Villages need adequate access to information regarding regulations, policies, and available resources. The government can facilitate such access by providing publications, guides, or digital platforms that offer up-to-date and relevant information. Accessible information will enable villagers to understand their rights and responsibilities within the context of village autonomy. Lastly, building networks and collaborations is a valuable solution. Villages can establish connections and collaborations with other villages, local governments, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations. Through these collaborations, villages can exchange experiences, learn from best practices, and access additional resources that contribute to enhancing village understanding and capacity.

The solution to the problem of dependence on transfer funds is to develop the local economic potential. Villages should focus on developing their local economic potential to reduce reliance on transfer funds. This can be achieved by promoting the diversification of the village economy and developing local economic sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, crafts, and small industries. The village government can provide support through training, mentoring, and access to capital to strengthen these sectors.

Another solution is to increase the village's own revenue. Villages need to work on boosting their own revenue through existing local sources. This can be done by optimizing village taxes and fees, exploring sustainable utilization of natural resources, and involving the community in the management of village assets such as land and forests.

Furthermore, villages can promote the development of community entrepreneurship. Encouraging community entrepreneurship will create employment opportunities and increase community income. The village government can offer entrepreneurship training, facilitate access to business capital, and provide assistance in the establishment and growth of micro and small businesses in the village.

Diversifying village funding sources is also important. Villages should explore alternative funding options beyond transfer funds. For instance, they can establish partnership programs with the private sector, leverage grants or assistance from donor agencies, or develop collaborations with financial institutions to improve access to financing. Lastly, good village financial management is crucial. Villages need to enhance their financial management practices to optimize the utilization of existing funds. Transparent, accountable, and efficient financial management is essential.
governments should engage in careful budget planning, involve the community in the budgeting process, and regularly monitor and evaluate the use of village funds.

The solution to the lack of community participation in villages is to increase community awareness. Village governments need to make continuous efforts to raise community awareness about the importance of active participation in village decision-making and development. Through effective counseling, campaigns, and socialization, the community can understand the benefits of their participation in improving village welfare.

Furthermore, the village government can establish participatory forums. Villages should create forums such as village meetings, working groups, or local customary institutions that involve villagers in decision-making and development planning. These forums should provide a platform for all villagers to express their opinions, ideas, and aspirations, ensuring that decisions reflect the interests and needs of the entire community.

Another solution is to ensure open and transparent communication. The village government should strive for open and transparent communication with the community. Information on development plans, village budgets, and policies should be easily accessible and understandable to the community. The village government should also involve the community in the process of monitoring and evaluating village development.

Increasing community empowerment is another important solution. Villages need to make efforts to empower the community and encourage their active participation. This can be achieved through training and mentoring programs to improve the skills, knowledge, and capacity of the community in managing development programs. By empowering the community, they will feel a sense of responsibility and play an active role in the development of their village.

Additionally, the utilization of information technology is necessary. The use of information technology, such as social media, village websites, or mobile applications, can be an effective means of communicating with the community and encouraging their participation. Through these platforms, the community can provide input, report problems, and discuss important issues related to village development. Lastly, implementing a reward and incentive initiative can be beneficial. Villages can provide rewards and incentives to communities that actively participate in village development activities. This can increase people's motivation and interest in participating, thereby stimulating more active involvement.

The solution to addressing inequality between villages is the preparation of an equity-based development plan. Local governments need to develop development plans that prioritize equity, taking into account the needs and potential of each village proportionally. This will ensure that resource allocation is done fairly and equitably.

Furthermore, improving access to resources is crucial. Villages experiencing inequality need to prioritize access to resources such as education, health, infrastructure, and public services. Local governments can allocate transfer funds, provide technical assistance, or allocate resources more proportionally to villages that have limited access.

Establishing special assistance and empowerment programs is another solution. Villages facing inequality can benefit from special assistance and empowerment programs designed to address these gaps. These programs may include skills training, assistance in local economic development, business capital support, or necessary basic infrastructure.
Implementing community-based development is important. It is essential to involve the community in the development planning and implementation process. Villages facing inequality can actively engage the community in identifying priority needs, planning development, and implementing development programs. By directly involving the community, their interests and aspirations can be better accommodated. Lastly, improving village management capacity is vital for villages facing inequality. Villages need to enhance their village management capacity to optimize the utilization of existing resources. Training and mentoring programs in planning, financial management, village governance, and economic development can help villages overcome existing constraints.

4.4. The Impact of Village Autonomy Implementation Based on Law No. 6/2014

The implementation of village autonomy based on Law No. 6/2014 on Villages has had a significant impact on village development in Indonesia. There are several important impacts of the implementation of village autonomy based on Law No. 6/2014.

One of the key impacts is the empowerment of village communities. Village autonomy provides opportunities for village communities to be more actively involved in decision-making and the implementation of development in their villages (Pujiningsih, 2019). Village communities can organize and manage natural and human resources within their own villages, allowing them to develop their local potential and interests.

Another significant impact is the provision of village budgets. Law No. 6/2014 requires local governments to allocate village funds to every village in the region. These village funds serve as a significant source of income for villages to carry out development and improve community welfare. The provision of village funds enables villages to allocate resources according to their local needs and priorities.

Furthermore, there is a noticeable improvement in infrastructure and public services. Village autonomy allows villages to manage infrastructure development and public services at the local level. With the availability of village funds and greater authority, villages can construct and maintain infrastructure such as roads, bridges, clean water supply, and electricity. Additionally, villages can enhance access to and the quality of public services such as education, healthcare, and village development planning.

Another impact is the development of local economic potential. Village autonomy provides an opportunity for villages to capitalize on their local economic potential. Villages can effectively manage and optimize the utilization of natural resources in their surroundings, including agriculture, plantations, fisheries, and tourism. Through sound management practices, villages can increase the income and welfare of their local communities.

The last impact is an increase in participation and accountability. Village autonomy also encourages active participation of the community in decision-making and the implementation of development projects within the village. Through mechanisms such as village meetings and other village institutions, the community can express their aspirations, provide input, and oversee the implementation of development in their village. This also leads to an enhancement of the accountability of the village government to the community.
5. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the implementation of the village autonomy policy based on Law Number 6/2014, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The implementation of village autonomy prior to Law No. 6/2014 was limited and did not fully provide sufficient authority to the villages. Law No. 6/2014 represents a significant milestone in strengthening village autonomy in Indonesia. It offers villages the opportunity to manage and develop their local potential, thereby improving the welfare of village communities. The law plays a crucial role in strengthening village autonomy in Indonesia and supports the empowerment of villages to actively participate in local development.

2. The implementation of village autonomy based on Law No. 6/2014 faces several challenges, including limited resources, lack of understanding and capacity at the village level, dependence on transfer funds, insufficient community participation, and inequality between villages.

3. Solutions have been proposed to address the problems encountered in the implementation of village autonomy, and these solutions are being implemented by the village governments.

4. The implementation of village autonomy based on Law No. 6/2014 has several important impacts, including the empowerment of village communities, provision of village budgets, improvement of infrastructure and public services, development of local economic potential, and increased participation and accountability.

In summary, the implementation of village autonomy based on Law No. 6/2014 has brought significant changes and opportunities for villages in Indonesia. Despite the challenges faced, efforts are being made to overcome these issues and maximize the benefits of village autonomy for the welfare and development of local communities.

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