

Research Article

District Capacity Revitalization for Strengthening Administration of Traditional Villages in Jayapura District: A Mixed Method Approach

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Abstract.

This study aimed to challenge the strengthening of regional governance in Jayapura District, particularly focusing on the administration of traditional villages. It aligns legislative initiatives aiming to enhance governance through community empowerment and nurturing local wisdom, despite existing challenges in effective governance and development outcomes. The primary objective is to create a comprehensive framework for District Capacity Building in Village Administration. Employing a mixed-method approach, the study combines quantitative data from structured surveys with qualitative data from FGD. Purposive sampling targets government officials and community leaders, ensuring data relevance. Statistical analysis of survey data provides a baseline understanding of district capacity, while FGDs offer in-depth insights into specific challenges and dynamics. The research introduces a refined district capacity strengthening model using the Treaming Theory, indicating indirect influences of funding, district capacity, and infrastructure on district head duties and functions through district authority. This model underscores the need for increased district authority, supported by improved funding and infrastructure, to enhance traditional village development effectively. The study reveals that revitalizing district roles as development centers and traditional village development districts can significantly improve regional governance in Jayapura District and provide recommendations for policy formulation, strengthening implementation of district functions, and enhancing traditional village governance.

Keywords: district authority, government management, traditional villages

1. INTRODUCTION

With the presence of a set of laws that aim to reinforce efforts to strengthen regional governance down to the district and village strata, it must be accompanied by strengthening the institutionalization and internalization aspects [1]. Until now, we are faced with the obligation to implement several laws and regulations simultaneously, namely: Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services, Law Number 5 of 2014 concerning National

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Published: 3 July 2024

Publishing services provided by Knowledge E

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Selection and Peer-review under the responsibility of the IJESAS Conference Committee.

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Civil Apparatus, Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government, and Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration, as well as various other technical formulation arrangements. A number of these laws and regulations have relevance and coherence which are closely related to the sustainability of community empowerment programs and village governance) which are being intensified by the Central Government, Papua Province Government, and Jayapura Regency Government in recent years, based on the approach of “building from the periphery to the center, building from village to city [2-7].

In this regard, and line with the vision of the Jayapura Regency Government, initiatives and creativity are continuously encouraged to explore and grow local wisdom elements optimally through more practical program interventions and activities by government institutions closest to the “village development area.” The Jayapura District Government has carried out various program interventions and activities, but satisfactory results have yet to be shown. Now, a different approach has been applied, which positions the village community as the subject of development. At the same time, a movement emerged to revive the “original village” or “traditional village” as a logical manifestation of the will to put “local wisdom” as the foundation of a solid building “shared house” in the village [8,9].

One of the recommendations for the follow-up plan is the need to establish a district and all of its village areas as a pilot project so that it can be used as a good example. This pattern is in line with the spirit of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages which regulates “traditional villages.” Where the Jayapura Regency Government has followed up on this by issuing Jayapura District Regulation Number 8 of 2014 concerning Village Administration, as well as Regent Decree Number 319 of 2014 concerning protection and recognition of customary law communities and Regent’s Decree concerning the establishment of Traditional Villages between others Itakiwa Village in East Sentani District (Development Area-I), Nekheibe Village in Ravenirara District (Development Area-II), Ketemung Village in Nimboran District and Bundru Village in Kentuk District (Development Area-III), through the policy of legalizing the 4 Traditional Villages, Jayapura Regency has made a breakthrough in giving recognition to indigenous peoples, as a solution to managing development that empowers village communities according to their characteristics and local wisdom [10,11]. In this regard, it is essential to carry out a study related to district capacity building in Jayapura Regency, which helps reposition and revitalize district functions, especially in supporting the implementation of village-traditional administration to the fullest.

2. METHODOLOGY/ MATERIALS

The approach used in this study is the mixed method [12-14]. The quantitative method is a Sequential Explanatory Design that prioritizes a quantitative approach to facilitate qualitative research [15-17]. The quantitative approach (a structured survey) was applied first for targeted respondents, including government officials and community leaders, identifying the factors that influence the strengthening of district capacity, as well as the response and perception of the community towards district functions so far. The provided baseline was used for understanding the current state of district capacity and identifying key areas for improvement.

Furthermore, the results were deepened and justified qualitatively (by Focus Group Discussions) so that structural problems can be disclosed more broadly and in-depth [18-20]. Participants for FGDs, selected from survey respondents in 4 districts (Sentani Timur, Nimboran, Yapsi and Revenirara). Purposive techniques are also used to determine samples of government officials currently occupying structural positions and community leaders. In the next stage, the Stratified Random Sampling technique is used to determine the individual sample (two people per agency).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1. The Factors Influencing the Strengthening of District Capacity

3.1.1. Quantitative results

Factors influencing the strengthening administration of traditional villages in Jayapura district from the quantitative approach include district authority, budgeting, district infrastructure, institutional capacity and human resources. Identified problems in detail are provided in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Identified problems within the district capacity-strengthening policies framework.

Factors	Yes/ Sufficient	No/ Insufficient
Granted authority	60.40%	39.60%
Funding	75.00%	25.00%
District infrastructure	33.3%	66.70%
Institutional capacity	43.80%	37.60%
Human resources	52.10%	47.9%
Disctrict function	36.80%	26.20%

3.1.2. Qualitative results

Table 2 show Identified problems within the district capacity-strengthening policies framework from qualitative approach.

TABLE 2: Identified problems within the district capacity-strengthening policies framework from qualitative approach.

Identified problems	Respondents' Statements
Limited delegated authority	<i>"The delegation of authority from the district government to the districts was still lacking, which was later added that the existing delegation of authority had not been supported and strengthened by normative regulations, both PERBUP and PERDA." (Results of the FGD, August 2022)</i>
Planning management at the district level still needs improvement Insufficient data to support planning	<i>"The availability of data and information seems insufficient to support planning. SOPs have yet to be appropriately implemented". (Results of interview, August 2022)</i>
Weak budget support Lack of funding	<i>"The issue of funding is still weak on the availability side to carry out activities delegated to the regional government, so it is suggested that districts be given greater authority in managing financial resources." (FGD, August 2022)</i>
District Apparatus and Institutional Resources Misunderstanding regarding the urgency and position of the district and apparatus capacity Low discipline of district officials District Apparatus and Institutional Resources The absence of official houses, electricity, telecommunication networks, and difficulty accessing transportation	<i>"There needs to be an increase in the discipline of staff/employees because there are still some district employees/staff who are rarely in the office during working days, thus affecting the district's performance (Result of the interview, August 2022). "...district officials who work in district offices that are easy to access have better discipline" (Results of interview, August 2022). "There are districts near and far, those near are good, and the coordination is smooth because we can go directly with a letter of notification. Whereas with districts that are far away, we can coordinate. However, because the areas are difficult to access and there are also no communication/telephone networks, this causes coordination to be disrupted frequently" (Results of interview, August 2022).</i>
Completeness of government administration infrastructure/ facilities SOPs have yet to be appropriately implemented Inadequate equipment/tools Limited access	<i>"I think the district should carry out repeated outreach to the village community about the importance of establishing the traditional village itself." (Results of interview, August 2022). "...Until now, we do not have a district office that can be used for good works. The location of this office is too far, and the public cannot access it. People never want to come to the office because for them the office is far away" (Result of the interview, August 2022).</i>

Based on the quantitative and qualitative data. The district's performance could have been better due to the limitations of the delegated authority and the unclear understanding of the authority currently possessed, including attribution authority and mandate authority in the context of fostering village and traditional village governance. Therefore, the district has yet to actualize itself as the spearhead in successfully developing traditional villages. Weak budget support, apparatus capacity, and completeness of government administration infrastructure facilities are crucial factors in the emergence

of a dilemma [21,22]. There is still a “misunderstanding” across OPD/SKPD, regarding the urgency and position of the district as the regional apparatus closest to the community, which can play its role as development coordinator, public service center, and social-community development. The existence of limited authority is understood as slowness in responding to the dynamics of development so that it cannot adapt to changes in the context and content of the primary duties of the district Head and the functions of the district in the form of regulations and follow-up actions.

3.2. District Strengthening Model

According to the Partial Least Square – Structural Equation Model (PLS-SEM)[23,24], four variables (funding, district functions, district infrastructure, granting of district authority, institutional capacity, and human resources) can affect the implementation of the duties of the district head and the functioning of the district. The Treaming Theory method was used to improve the model to be more representative. All indicators used to explain exogenous and endogenous latent variables appear statistically significant (< 0.05). It can also be ascertained that the latent variables included in this district-strengthening model have very high reliability. The composite reliability value for each latent variable which exceeds 0.70 and based on the average Cronbach’s Alpha coefficient value above 0.45 with a p-value less than 0.05. It can be further generalized that at the 95% confidence level, all latent variables are stated to be highly reliable [25]. The path of the causal relationship from the funding variable to the authority variable shows the p-value is greater than 0.05 and 0.10, which is 0.138. This indicates the funding variable to the authority variable is not significant.

Thus, the theoretical models built were not statistically and theoretically significant. Moreover, negative correlation is found in several variables, including the funding variable to the authority variable (-0.275) and the authority variable to the district function variable (-0.169). The path coefficient value from the district infrastructure variable to the authority variable of 0.318. The influence of the district capacity variable on the authority variable is also statistically significant, with a coefficient of 0.307 and a p-value of $0.019 < 0.10$. Meanwhile, the direct effect of the authority variable on district duties is significant, with a coefficient of 0.318 and a p-value of $0.059 < 0.10$. Finally, for this direct effect analysis, it is also clear that the funding variable significantly influences the district function variable by 0.349 with a p-value of $0.000 < 0.10$, the district head’s task variable of 0.620, and a p-value of $0.000 < 0.10$. Besides that, we found that the variable with the most excellent indirect effect on the district head’s duties is the funding variable

reaching 0.1193. It then followed by the function of the district is the authority variable of 0.1976. Thus, the district capacity strengthening model shows that district authority is significantly influenced by funding, district capacity, and institutional infrastructure variables.

The respondent's perception of the district infrastructure variable responds to an increase of 1 point, it is expected that the respondent's perception of the authority variable will increase by 0.318 points. Furthermore, the influence of the district capacity variable on the authority variable is also statistically significant, with a coefficient of 0.307 and a p-value of $0.019 < 0.10$.

Meanwhile, the direct effect of the authority variable on district duties is significant, with a coefficient of 0.318 and a p-value of $0.059 < 0.10$. Finally, for this direct effect analysis, it is also clear that the funding variable significantly influences the district function variable by 0.349 with a p-value of $0.000 < 0.10$, the district head's task variable of 0.620, and a p-value of $0.000 < 0.10$. Because in the model formed, there are indirect causal relationships, such as funding variables on authority, district infrastructure, and capacity variables on district head duties and district functions, as well as authority variables on district functions, statistically, it can be shown how much influence indirectly from each of these variables. Suppose the focus is on the implementation of the district head's duties and the functioning of the district. In that case, the variable with the most excellent indirect effect on the district head's duties is the funding variable reaching 0.1193.

Meanwhile, the function of the district is the authority variable of 0.1976. By knowing the direct and indirect effects between variables, in the end, it can be shown how significant the total influence is from the variables of funding, district infrastructure, district capacity, and authority over the duties of the district head and the functioning of the district [26]. Based on the district strengthening model perceived by all the respondents above, it can be generalized empirically to optimize the implementation of the district head's duties. It is necessary to increase even more authority in the district because the magnitude of the influence of the authority variable appears to be the highest and most positive among all variables, equal to 0.318. This can be achieved by first increasing district funding directed at adding district infrastructure (work tools and equipment) and efforts to increase district capacity (HR, institutions, and performance) [27,28]. The magnitude of the total influence of the district funding variable on district authority is 0.375. Furthermore, to maximize the functioning of the district, the duties of the district head, district funding, and district authority need to be increased higher and wider because these three variables have a significant total effect, respectively,

namely 0.620 (variable of district head tasks), 0.423 (district funding variable), and 0.198 (district authority variable). Due to the segmentation of the district functions, one of which includes the development of traditional villages, if the authority of the district is increased through more optimal funding, this can indirectly increase the functioning of the district to strengthen the realization of traditional villages in Jayapura Regency, which of course cannot be separated, from coordination between districts with other related SKPD [26,29,30].

4. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that district performance in Jayapura Regency could be significantly enhanced by addressing key challenges: limited delegated authority, vague understanding of current authority, and insufficient support in terms of budget, apparatus capacity, and administrative infrastructure. The capacity building model for the district reveals that funding, district capacity, and institutional infrastructure are pivotal in influencing district authority. Enhanced district authority, supported by improved funding, apparatus capacity, and working infrastructure, can directly elevate the district's effectiveness in fostering the development of Traditional Villages. Revitalizing district roles as development centers and traditional village development districts can significantly improve regional governance in Jayapura District.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are grateful to the four districts target for permitting the data collection process carried out and for the assistance provided during this research. All authors declare that there is no conflict of interest. This research was self-funding.

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