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GOVERNMENTAL ACTOR INTERACTIONS IN SITUBONDO REGENCY VILLAGE FUND CASH TRANSFER POLICY IMPLEMENTATION: A GOVERNMENTAL ECOLOGY PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the interaction among governmental actors in implementing the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT Dana Desa) policy in Situbondo Regency from the perspective of governmental ecology. Employing a qualitative library research design, the research utilized secondary data derived from government regulations, official publications, scientific journal articles, books, and previous empirical studies concerning Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance, village governance, and governmental ecology. Data were analyzed using the interactive analysis model of Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña through data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing. The findings reveal that policy implementation is shaped by interdependent interactions among the central government, regency government, district administration, village government, Village Consultative Bodies (BPD), and beneficiary communities. Successful implementation is influenced by institutional adaptation, intergovernmental communication, administrative capacity, and community participation, while inconsistencies in beneficiary data, dynamic regulatory changes, and disparities in institutional capacity remain the principal challenges. Although this research is limited to secondary data obtained through library research, it provides theoretical insights into governmental ecology and practical implications for strengthening coordination among governmental actors in implementing village-based social protection policies. By examining the implementation of the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance policy through a governmental ecology perspective, the study contributes to the public policy literature by highlighting the interdependence among governmental actors as a key determinant of effective policy implementation.

Keywords: Governmental Actor Interaction; Governmental Ecology; Policy Implementation; Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance; Village Governance

Introduction.

Since the enactment of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, the Indonesian government has strengthened village autonomy by allocating Village Funds (Dana Desa) to support rural development, community empowerment, and the improvement of public services at the village level [1]. In recent years, Village Funds have also become an important instrument of social protection through the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT Dana Desa) program, which prioritizes assistance for economically vulnerable households in rural areas [2]. The expanding role of Village Funds demonstrates that village governance is no longer limited to local development but has become an essential component of implementing national social protection policies. Consequently, the effective implementation of BLT Dana Desa requires strong coordination among governmental institutions across different administrative levels to ensure that policy objectives are achieved effectively and accountably.

The implementation of BLT Dana Desa involves a multi-level governance system in which the central government formulates regulations and funding mechanisms, regency governments



provide supervision and guidance, district administrations facilitate policy implementation, and village governments are responsible for beneficiary identification, fund distribution, and accountability reporting [3]. In addition, Village Consultative Bodies (BPD) and local communities participate in monitoring and verifying beneficiaries to ensure that assistance reaches eligible households [4]. These interdependent relationships indicate that the implementation of BLT Dana Desa should not merely be viewed as an administrative process but rather as a dynamic interaction among governmental actors operating within an interconnected governance system.

Previous studies have primarily examined the implementation of BLT Dana Desa using conventional public policy implementation models, particularly the framework proposed by Edward III, which emphasizes communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic structure [3], [5]. Other studies have focused on the effectiveness, accountability, and transparency of Village Fund management, highlighting that successful policy implementation depends on institutional coordination, administrative capacity, and stakeholder participation. However, limited attention has been given to examining how interactions among governmental actors shape policy implementation from the perspective of governmental ecology, particularly within the context of Situbondo Regency. This gap indicates the need for a broader analytical perspective capable of explaining how institutional interdependence, organizational adaptation, and governance interactions influence the implementation of BLT Dana Desa [6].

Against this background, the present study seeks to analyze the interaction among governmental actors in implementing the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT Dana Desa) policy in Situbondo Regency through the perspective of governmental ecology. Unlike previous studies that primarily emphasize policy implementation variables or evaluate the effectiveness of Village Fund management, this research focuses on the ecological relationships among governmental institutions operating at different administrative levels [7], [8]. By examining the interactions among the central government, regency government, district administration, village government, Village Consultative Bodies (BPD), and beneficiary communities, this study provides a broader understanding of how institutional interdependence, organizational adaptation, and cross-level coordination influence policy implementation. The findings are expected to enrich the theoretical discourse on governmental ecology while providing practical recommendations for strengthening coordination and governance capacity in the implementation of village-based social protection policies.

Literature Review and Hypothesis Development

Policy implementation is widely recognized as a complex governance process that extends beyond the formal execution of regulations. Its effectiveness depends not only on policy design but also on the interactions among institutions responsible for translating policy objectives into practical actions [3]. In the context of Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT Dana Desa), implementation involves multiple governmental actors operating at different administrative levels, each possessing distinct authorities, responsibilities, and institutional capacities [4], [9]. Consequently, understanding policy implementation requires an analytical perspective capable of explaining how these actors interact, adapt, and coordinate within an interconnected governance system rather than merely evaluating administrative compliance.

The present study adopts Governmental Ecology as its primary theoretical perspective. Governmental ecology views government as an ecosystem in which institutions continuously interact with one another and with their surrounding environment. Rather than functioning independently, governmental organizations establish relationships characterized by interdependence, adaptation, coordination, and mutual influence in responding to changing social and policy environments. This perspective is particularly relevant to the implementation of BLT

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Dana Desa because the policy requires continuous coordination among the central government, regency government, district administration, village government, Village Consultative Bodies (BPD), and beneficiary communities [4], [9]. From this perspective, policy implementation is understood as the outcome of dynamic institutional interactions rather than the responsibility of a single governmental actor.

Existing studies generally demonstrate that the implementation of Village Fund policies is influenced by communication, institutional capacity, resource availability, and stakeholder participation. Previous research has also emphasized accountability, transparency, and community involvement as important determinants of successful Village Fund governance [10]. Although these studies have provided valuable insights into policy implementation, they predominantly examine implementation through conventional public policy frameworks that focus on administrative variables and organizational performance. Consequently, the interaction among governmental actors as an ecological system has received comparatively limited scholarly attention. This indicates that current literature has not fully explained how institutional interdependence and adaptive relationships among governmental actors collectively shape the implementation of BLT Dana Desa, particularly within the local governance context of Situbondo Regency.

Drawing upon the governmental ecology perspective, this study positions the implementation of BLT Dana Desa as a collaborative governance process involving interconnected governmental institutions rather than isolated administrative units. By examining the relationships among governmental actors across different levels of administration, this research complements existing implementation studies and provides a broader understanding of how coordination, institutional adaptation, and actor interaction influence policy implementation [6]. Accordingly, this study contributes to the development of public policy literature by extending the application of governmental ecology to the analysis of Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance implementation in Situbondo Regency.

Research Methods

This study employed a qualitative approach using a library research design. This approach was selected because the research aims to analyze the interaction among governmental actors in the implementation of the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT Dana Desa) policy in Situbondo Regency through the perspective of governmental ecology. Library research was considered the most appropriate method since the analysis was conducted by synthesizing scientific literature, official documents, and previous empirical studies relevant to the research objectives. The library research approach involves collecting, reviewing, recording, and analyzing information derived from documentary sources to address the research problem [11].

As a library research, this study did not involve a research population or respondents in the conventional sense. Instead, the analysis focused on secondary data obtained from scientific literature and official government documents relevant to the implementation of the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance policy. The selected sources consisted of national and international journal articles, academic books, government regulations, and official publications discussing policy implementation, Village Funds, Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT Dana Desa), village governance, and governmental ecology. The literature was selected based on its relevance to the research topic, source credibility, year of publication, and its contribution to the analysis of governmental actor interactions in policy implementation [11].

Data were collected through documentation by identifying, classifying, and reviewing various scientific publications and official government documents relevant to the research focus.

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The study utilized secondary data obtained from government regulations, academic books, national and international journal articles, and official publications issued by the Ministry of Villages, Ministry of Finance, and Statistics Indonesia (BPS). These documents were selected because they provide comprehensive information regarding the implementation of Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance and the interaction among governmental actors involved in the policy implementation process.

The collected data were analyzed using the interactive analysis model developed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña [12]. The analysis consisted of three stages: data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification [12]. During the data condensation stage, information relevant to the implementation of BLT Dana Desa and the interaction among governmental actors was identified and organized. The data were subsequently presented systematically according to the main research themes, including governmental actor configuration, vertical interaction, horizontal interaction, institutional adaptation, and the governmental ecology perspective. Finally, conclusions were drawn by synthesizing the findings to explain how interactions among governmental actors influence the implementation of the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance policy in Situbondo Regency.

Result and Discussion

Configuration of Governmental Actors in the Implementation of Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance

The findings indicate that the implementation of the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT Dana Desa) policy involves multiple governmental actors operating across different administrative levels. The institutional configuration consists of the central government as the policy regulator, regency governments as supervisory and facilitating authorities, district administrations as coordinating institutions, village governments as the primary implementing actors, Village Consultative Bodies (BPD) as representative institutions, and local communities as beneficiaries and participants in the implementation process [4], [9]. Each actor performs distinct roles and responsibilities according to the prevailing regulatory framework, forming an interconnected governance structure for implementing the BLT Dana Desa policy [1].

The findings further indicate that the implementation of BLT Dana Desa is carried out through a coordinated governance mechanism involving different governmental institutions according to their respective authorities. The village government is responsible for identifying beneficiary households, allocating the budget through the Village Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBDes), distributing financial assistance, and preparing accountability reports in accordance with prevailing regulations [13]. Meanwhile, coordination with higher levels of government ensures that policy implementation remains consistent with national priorities, while collaboration with the Village Consultative Body (BPD) and local communities supports the verification of beneficiary data and enhances transparency throughout the implementation process [5].

Discussion

The findings demonstrate that the implementation of the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT Dana Desa) policy cannot be understood solely as an administrative process but rather as a governance process involving continuous interaction among governmental actors across different administrative levels. The configuration of roles performed by the central government,



regency government, district administration, village government, Village Consultative Bodies (BPD), and local communities reflects an interconnected governance system in which each actor contributes according to its institutional authority [14]. This interaction indicates that the effectiveness of policy implementation depends not only on the formal distribution of responsibilities but also on the quality of coordination and collaboration established throughout the implementation process.

The present findings are consistent with previous studies emphasizing that the successful implementation of Village Fund policies depends on effective coordination among governmental institutions and the capacity of implementing agencies to respond to policy changes [15], [16]. Previous research conducted in Situbondo demonstrated that frequent regulatory changes required village governments to revise planning documents and strengthen coordination with higher levels of government to ensure policy compliance. Likewise, other studies have highlighted that communication among implementing actors, the accuracy of beneficiary data, and the administrative capacity of village officials are essential factors supporting the effectiveness of BLT Dana Desa implementation [2], [8], [17]. These similarities reinforce the argument that policy implementation is a collaborative process requiring institutional coordination rather than the performance of a single governmental actor.

From the perspective of governmental ecology, these findings extend the understanding of policy implementation by emphasizing the ecological relationships among governmental institutions [5]. While Edward III's implementation model explains policy implementation through communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic structure, the governmental ecology perspective provides a broader analytical lens by highlighting institutional interdependence, organizational adaptation, and continuous interaction among governmental actors within a dynamic policy environment. Accordingly, the implementation of BLT Dana Desa is better understood as an adaptive governance system in which institutional relationships evolve in response to regulatory and environmental changes rather than as a linear administrative process.

The findings also provide practical implications for improving the implementation of Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance policies at the local level [18]. Strengthening coordination among governmental institutions, enhancing the administrative capacity of village officials, and encouraging active community participation are essential to maintaining policy effectiveness amid changing regulatory environments [19]. More broadly, this study contributes to the public policy literature by demonstrating that the implementation of village-based social protection policies should be analyzed through the interaction of governmental actors rather than solely through administrative implementation variables [20]. Consequently, the governmental ecology perspective offers a more comprehensive understanding of how institutional coordination, adaptability, and collaboration collectively influence policy implementation.

Conclusion

This study examined the interaction among governmental actors in implementing the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT Dana Desa) policy in Situbondo Regency from the perspective of governmental ecology. The findings demonstrate that the implementation of BLT Dana Desa is not merely an administrative process but a collaborative governance process involving dynamic interactions among the central government, regency government, district administration, village government, Village Consultative Bodies (BPD), and local communities. The effectiveness of policy implementation is shaped by institutional interdependence, adaptive coordination, community participation, and the administrative capacity of governmental actors in responding to regulatory changes. These findings indicate that the governmental ecology

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perspective provides a broader analytical framework for understanding policy implementation by emphasizing the interconnected relationships among governmental institutions rather than focusing solely on conventional implementation variables. Furthermore, this study contributes theoretically by extending the application of the governmental ecology perspective to the implementation of village-based social protection policies, while practically highlighting the importance of strengthening intergovernmental coordination, enhancing the capacity of village officials, and encouraging active community participation to improve policy implementation.

This study is limited by its library research approach, which relies exclusively on secondary data without incorporating field observations or direct interviews with governmental actors involved in the implementation of BLT Dana Desa. Consequently, the findings are constrained by the availability and scope of existing literature and official documents. Future research is therefore encouraged to employ case study or mixed-methods approaches to empirically examine interactions among governmental actors in different regional contexts. Such studies would provide a deeper understanding of the dynamics of governmental ecology and further validate its application as an analytical perspective in the implementation of public policies at the village level.

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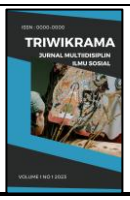
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