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## Village Community Understanding of the Implementation of Environmental Policies based on the Principles of Good Village Governance

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### Abstract:

The environment is strongly influenced by the state of the community in managing and caring for it, because the environment as a medium of life support is important for living things, especially humans. The role of the government as a facilitator for the community in managing the environment requires a program using the principles of Good Village Governance so that environmental sustainability can be used sustainably. The purpose of this study aims to determine the understanding of the village community on the meaning of Good Village Governance towards environmental sustainability in Cilimus village. This village is important because it is a buffer village for the Wan Abdul Rahman (WAR) Forest Park area. This research uses a qualitative method based on the community's experience in managing the environment in the village and its surroundings. Based on the results of the analysis, it is known that in descriptive analysis, on the variable of policy understanding, respondents stated that "Policies are made based on the needs and interests of members and environmental sustainability" are those that are strongly felt by the Cilimus Village Community (mean average score of 3.548 or very high). In the descriptive analysis of the 5 Good Village Governance variables, respondents stated that "Members of the Forest Farmers Group have known and obeyed the law on sustainable environmental management" was the most prominent thing in their village (mean score of 3.321 or high). This means that the Cilimus village government has high responsiveness.

**Keywords:** Environment, Good Village Governance, Policy, Village Government

## 1.1. INTRODUCTION

In the current era of government, so many village funds are channeled to villages throughout Indonesia as development funds. The goal is that the development goals are right on target and not long bureaucracy. One of the development targets is evenly distributed throughout Indonesia and

the preservation of natural resources and the environment. To realize this, the active participation of the village government is required. The village government plays a very important role in the creation of good governance in the village in regulating the management and utilization of natural resources within the village and its surroundings.

In an effort to prevent violations of state law in realizing village development, it is very important for village governments to ideally implement Good Village Governance (GVG). The problems of the Indonesian nation today are increasingly complex in implementing policies from the center to the village level. Systems, structures and individuals who are supposed to be role models for the people have stumbled into legal problems. In addition to the village government, in order for state law to be relevant to the regulation of environmental sustainability, active participation from the general public is also needed. This is in accordance with the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia Article 1 paragraph (2) which states that the state should facilitate citizen involvement in the public policy process. In this article, a form of public oversight of the state to achieve GVG is discussed.

Good Governance contains two meanings, namely (1.) supporting and honoring the people's desires and values that empower them to reach national objectives, independence, and sustainable development and (2.) serving as a practical element of a government that operates effectively and efficiently to fulfill its responsibilities and achieve these aims.. As stated by Agus Dwiyanto (2008) and Tompo *et al.*, (2021), some of the principles that must be applied for the realization of Good Governance which also animates GVG in this study are as follows:

1. Accountability which is a degree that shows the amount of responsibility of the apparatus for the policies and processes of public services carried out by the government bureaucracy.
2. Efficiency. In this context, efficiency refers to the optimal ratio between input and output. It is considered efficient if a desired output can be achieved using minimal input.
3. Responsiveness or more often interpreted as responsiveness is the organization's ability To identify community needs, prioritize them, and develop these into various service programs. This involves assessing the organization's responsiveness to the expectations, desires, and aspirations of the community, and demands of service users.
4. Participation. In this case, it implies that the community from the beginning must be involved in deciding various matters relating to public services, such as the types of public services they need, the best way to organize public services, mechanisms to oversee the service process and mechanisms to evaluate services.
5. Transparency. This concept involves a scenario where every aspect of the service delivery process is accessible and easily understood by users and stakeholders. Three key indicators can be used to assess the transparency of public servants. The first indicator is the extent to which the public

service delivery process is open and transparent. The second indicator measures how easy it is for users and stakeholders to understand the rules and procedures of the service. The third is the ease of obtaining information about various aspects of organizing public services.

Until now, the implementation of the GVG paradigm has not been adopted by the village government and its community. Therefore, it is important to conduct research on the implementation of GVG. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to determine the understanding of village communities on the meaning of GVG towards environmental sustainability in the village.

This research was carried out in Cilimus Village, which is a buffer village of WAR Forest Park covering an area of 833. 155 hectares. With a strategic location in supporting the sustainability of the forest function, all communities and the Cilimus village government must also support all policies that apply in the WAR forest park through environmental policies that apply in Cilimus village and are implemented based on the principles of GVG. The Forest Park has a management institution, namely the WAR Forest Park Technical Implementation Unit, which is the smallest Forest Management Unit (FMU) at the site level. Thus, the Cilimus village government and the management team of the Technical Implementation Unit of the WAR Forest Park must collaborate and all environmental policies that apply in Cilimus village must synergize with forest policies. Collaboration with the FMU in managing the environment is important, especially since the enactment of the Regional Government Law number 22 of 2014 and must be implemented in 2016 (Wulandari *et al.*, 2019)

## 1.2. RESEARCH METHODS

Research location in Cilimus Village, Pesawaran Regency, Lampung Province, Indonesia. The respondents of this study were 83 people who were administrators and members of the Forest Farmers Group who participated in the Social Forestry program in supporting government programs to preserve the environment. According to Sang and Hae (2017), the minimum number of respondents must be 30 people as a requirement so that it is valid when analyzed statistically. The approach utilized in this research is a qualitative method. In getting a portrait of the reality in the village related to the community's understanding of GVG, the most appropriate is a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. According to one of the phenomenological figures, Edmund Husserl (Kuswano, 2009) "With Phenomenology we can study forms of experience from the point of view of the person who experiences it directly, as if we were experiencing it ourselves.

In exploring community's understanding of the effectiveness of environmental policy implementation in Cilimus, a questionnaire with 7 key statements related to GVG was used. Each statement contained 5 questions addressed to each respondent, making a total of 35 questions. The answer to each question is in the form of numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. After that

the numbers are summed up to get the maximum score and minimum score. The description of the 5 questions from each key statement contains the meaning of the GVG variables, namely accountability, efficiency, responsiveness, participation and transparency so that the level of implementation in the field can be known based on the opinions of the community as respondents. In addition to questions relevant to GVG, there were also 3 initial questions addressed to respondents related to village policies in managing the environment. The purpose of these 3 questions is to provide an initial analysis of the community's understanding of environmental policies at the village level.

The determination of the score of each questionnaire answer on a Likert scale has a gradation level from very negative to very positive, with the following description:

1. Strongly Agree (SS): score 5
2. Agree (S): score 4
3. Disagree (TS): score 3
4. Strongly Disagree (STS): score 2
5. Not Agree (TS): score 1

Researchers conducted a descriptive analysis of each variable by looking at the average value (mean) of the score of the questionnaire results that had been filled out by respondents. Measurements on these variables use a score of 1 for the lowest and 4 for the highest. The score intervals are :

$$\text{Interval} = \frac{\text{Maximum Score} - \text{Minimum Score}}{\text{Number of Classes}}$$

$$\text{Interval} = \frac{4 - 1}{5} = 0,6$$

Based on the above calculations, the distribution scale for the criteria for respondents' opinions or answers is as follows:

- Very Low: 1.00 - 1.60
- Low: 1.61 - 2.21
- Fair: 2.22 - 2.82
- High : 2.83 - 3.43
- Very High : 3.44 - 4.00

### **1.3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### 1.3.1. Analysis of Environmental Policy Variables

At the beginning of the analysis, researcher analyzed the community's understanding of the importance of complying with environmental management policies in their village. According to Ghafur (2021), someone will have a better understanding of a policy and will implement it independently if they really understand the important value of a policy around their lives.

The policy variable consists of 3 indicators, namely planning, implementation and evaluation. The following are the results of descriptive analysis of policy variables:

**Table 1. Descriptive Analysis of Policy Variables**

No.	Statement	Mean	Criteria
1.	Policies are made based on the needs and interests of members and environmental sustainability	3.548	Very High
2.	Policies or programs are implemented in accordance with the plan	3.167	High
3.	The village government conducts evaluations to improve program implementation	3.024	High

Source : Primary Data, 2024

In table 1, policies and programs are interpreted as policies and programs resulting from synergies between policies and programs owned by Cilimus Village and policies and programs of the WAR forest park manager. Based on the results of the descriptive analysis in table 1 above, it shows that the average respondent's assessment of the statements in planning, implementation and evaluation of environmental policies developed in Cilimus fall into the high criteria category. The highest assessment is in the 1st statement, namely "Policies are made based on the needs and interests of members and environmental sustainability." This means that the community considers that the village government has good planning related to the development of a two-institution synergy policy in sustainable environmental management. This is in line with the needs of the community in managing the surrounding environment so as to minimize disease and cleanliness in the surrounding environment (Caesar *et al.*, 2018). While the lowest value but still classified as a high category is in statement 3, namely "The village government conducts evaluations to improve program implementation." Program evaluation is an effort to improve the quality of village programs to preserve the environment and the community plays an important role in efforts to improve the program (Arifin, 2020).

Based on this, according to respondents related to policy variables, the village government already has very good planning because it is made based on the interests of the village and also involves them (Novaldi *et al.*, 2022). This is in accordance with the objectives of state policy, namely to preserve the forest and also to prosper the community around the forest (Kamaluddin *et al.*, 2019). Policy implementation is considered good by respondents. In the implementation of village programs actually has been planned, but there are still several programs that have not been able to run according to plan, therefore effective monitoring evaluation of programs by community and other relevant partners should have been implemented as a consideration for the implementation of village programs in managing the sustainable environment in the following year (Sutmasa, 2021).

### 1.3.2. Analysis of Good Village Governance Variables

Based on the results of the field survey before the research, the GVG variable found in the field and finally used in this study consists of 5 indicators, namely accountability, participation, transparency, responsiveness and efficiency (Tompo *et al.*, 2021). The following are the results of the analysis of 7 key statements that asked to respondents and the mean score of each statement is a compilation of 5 questions that reflect 5 GVG indicators. The following are the results of the descriptive analysis of the GVG variable based on 7 key statements:

**Table 2. Descriptive Analysis of GVG Variables**

No.	Statement	Mean	Criteria
1.	Village community members are aware of and comply with environmental management laws.	3.321	High
2.	The village government has conducted supervision (financial and programmatic) of the Forest Farmers Group institutions.	2.679	Fair
3.	People have access to information related to government policies (including Forest Park Unit policies) on sustainable environmental management.	3.167	High
4.	The Forest Farmers Group management always reports in detail on the implementation of programs that support forest sustainability to the Village Government.	3.071	High
5.	The Forest Farmers Group management is not influenced by outside parties in making decisions to support environmental conservation in Cilimus village and its surroundings.	3.143	High
6.	The village government plays a major role in helping to	3.119	High

	realize the goals of the Forest Farmers Group.		
7.	Every member of the Forest Farmers Group is championed in achieving justice for his or her rights	3.289	High

Source : Primary Data, 2024.

Based on the results of the descriptive analysis in table 2 above, it shows that the average respondent's assessment of the GVG variable includes high criteria. The highest assessment is in statement 1, namely "Village community members are aware of and comply with environmental management laws." Members of the Forest Farmers Group (FFG) have known and obeyed the law on sustainable environmental management of the five GVG indicators in this first key statement, the mean score for responsiveness in the first key statement was highest compared to the other four indicators. The second key statement obtained the fair mean score but has the responsiveness indicator has the highest mean score than 4 others because the village government provided the supervision needed by the community in terms of finance and the planning and implementation of their group programs. This means that the Cilimus village government has a good responsiveness to the needs of its community, so that the implementation of GVG is said to be ideal because it adapts to the needs of the community and the environment (Aminudin, 2019). This is in accordance with the principle of responsiveness in GVG, the principle of GVG itself, namely the involvement of the community with the government in managing and running programs in improving village welfare (Prayatni *et al.*, 2019).

The village government also has policy acted by providing clear information on all programs and policies that will be implemented in the village (Nurhikmah *et al.*, 2018). One of them is regulating the maintenance of livestock in the village so that manure pollution does not pollute the air and water sources of the village to the detriment of the community. Based on this step taken by the village government, the community has had a positive impact on the transparency of the village government in applying its policies and in accordance with the GVG principle of transparency (Malikhatun *et al.*, 2021). The transparency indicator has the highest mean score compared to the other 4 indicators in the 3rd key statement.

Specifically for the 4th key statement, the highest mean score is on the question relevant to the accountability indicator. The village government provides reports on its environmental programs so that the community knows the implementation and results of the program. When the village government has clear accountability, its development programs will be supported by the village community (Hermansyah *et al.*, 2018). Based on the results

of the survey in the field, it is known that the community is willing to participate consciously in supporting environmental conservation programs in accordance with the participatory principle in GVG. This condition is evidenced by 2 key statements, namely the 5th and 7th. Based on the results of data analysis, the highest mean score on the participation indicator is obtained in these 2 key statements. The existence of independent participation from the Cilimus community is evidenced by the champion spirit that grows within community members and they carry out all village environmental conservation programs without pressure from other parties. They are willing to conserve water sources and not cut down trees in the forest managed by their group. This policy shows that there is a synergy between the village policy and the policy of the WAR Forest Park manager. The synergism of sustainable environmental management policies from institutions with relevant interests in an area will certainly ensure the achievement of the objectives of a program (Sanjaya *et al.*, 2023). The objectives of development programs in an area will be more guaranteed to be achieved with the support of participation from the community (Wulandari *et al.*, 2021).

According to the Village Head, until now the village government has planned all its programs efficiently in accordance with the potential natural resources and human resource capacity of the village. The environmental policy implemented in Cilimus is supported by the community because it is in accordance with the needs of the community in meeting the primary, secondary and tertiary needs of the families of FFG members. The existence of efficiency in policy implementation is reflected in the 6th key statement which has the highest mean score on the efficiency indicator. The efficiency village policy also touches on food security policies for the community because they are not allowed to venture into the forest to fulfill their family's daily needs. The village head understands that the right policy will affect the level of food security of his village. This means that a policy affects the food security of an area. This was also found by Wulandari *et al.* (2019) in areas around the watershed in the Philippines and Indonesia.

From the results of the analysis, there is the lowest score with fair category found in the 2nd statement, namely "The Village Government has conducted supervision (financial and program) of the Forest Farmer Group Institution (FFGI)". This means that the village government fosters existing FFGI although it has not been able to meet all the financial needs of community groups in implementing programs that support village environmental sustainability. According to the Village Head, this is because the Village Government's finances have not been able to support the operations of the FFG in the village. Nevertheless,



the village government remains responsive and conducts supervision so that FFG can implement its programs even though the available funds are minimal or limited. Similar conditions were also found by Triputro and Supardal (2021) that village governments in several villages at Indonesia and abroad were responsive in carrying out their obligations so that the community was not negatively affected when the covid 19 outbreak occurred about 3 years ago. Based on the existing conditions, it can be seen that FFG is an independent group. As evidence in the field, FFG can managed their group by themself to create a fundraising proposal and eventually this group has even managed to obtain funding by assistance from the Walhi (name of the NGO) through the collaboration program with unit of WAR Forest Park. The self-reliance of an FFG will be increase when the FFG is able to fulfill its funding needs through its own efforts. Increased FFG independence can occur because the village government is responsive to all its responsibilities (Mardhika, 2023).

According to the explanation provided above, it can be interpreted that the village government has carried out all its programs in preserving the environment responsibly in accordance with the principle of accountability in GVG. Policy implementation based on GVG that has been carried out by the Cilimus Village community can be known to be quite good, this refers to the results of table 1 and table 2 where most people support programs aimed at improving environmental preservation (Hasan *et al.*, 2022). The community supports programs that are not just following the interests of the village, they have also thought about how important the environment is in supporting their welfare (Jelantik *et al.*, 2019). Everything happens in the field because people understand that if the environment is damaged, it will affect their lives and other living things in the same environment (Putra, 2017).

#### **1.4. CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the results of the research analysis, it is known that the Cilimus Village Government and the community have a high level of compliance with village programs that support environmental sustainability. Environmental regulations handled by the Cilimus village government are carried out in collaboration with unit of WAR Forest park. This must happen because Cilimus Village is a village located in the buffer zone of WAR Forest park area. The majority of six out of seven key statements containing the five GVG indicators (accountability, efficiency, responsiveness, participation, and transparency) were categorized as high. The responsiveness indicator contained in the 2nd key statement, which shows the

village government's supervision in terms of finance and development of the FFG program, received a fair category. The reason for this is that the village's financial capacity has not been able to support the implementation of FFG programs. Nevertheless, it is evident that the village government is still responsive in providing supervision to FFG.

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