

The Village Funds and “Indeks Desa Membangun” (IDM) in Central Java Province

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Abstract

Village funds are one of Indonesian Government's programs to encourage equitable development and improve economy starting from villages. The existence of village funds is expected to increase village independence which can be measured by IDM. IDM is a benchmark to provide an overview of village status through 5 classifications, namely very underdeveloped villages, underdeveloped villages, developing villages, developed villages, and independent villages. Village funds have a positive relationship with increasing IDM. This study aims to describe the role of village funds on IDM in Central Java Province. The research method used is a descriptive method with descriptive statistical analysis. The research data uses village funds budgets and IDM values of Central Java Province in the last 9 years (2015-2024). The study results show that there is a trend of increasing village funds budgets and IDM values in Central Java Province. The village funds budgets increased by around Rp 6.886.484.666.000,- between 2015 and 2024. Meanwhile, the IDM values increased by 0.1193 between 2016 and 2024. The increase in IDM values also encouraged a change in the status of IDM in Central Java Province from developing to developed. Based on these two trends, the increase of village funds budgets are in line with the increase of IDM values in Central Java Province. Thus, village funds have a positive role for IDM in Central Java Province.

Keywords: Village; Village Funds; IDM, Village Independence; Development; Central Java

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INTRODUCTION

Villages are the smallest administrative units in the Indonesian state system (Watts, et al., 2019). Based on the law, villages are given the authority to regulate their own administration and governance (Susilowati, et al., 2018) to carry out rural development. Rural development is one of Indonesia's development agendas that focuses on peripheral and rural areas with limited access, low levels of education, and migration imbalances (Naldi, et al., 2015). One of the Indonesian government's efforts to provide equitable rural development (Rosyan, 2021) is through a budget support program called the village funds (Howes & Davies, 2014). The village funds come from the State Budget (Anggaran Pendapatan dan Belanja Negara or APBN) which is transferred to the village account. The village funds program has been running since 2014 with the aim of stimulating development and encouraging poverty reduction at

the rural level (Saragi, et al., 2021). Nowadays, the village funds program has a positive impact on rural development (Ekawati, et al., 2022).

The utilization of village funds must be directed towards supporting rural development and empowering rural communities. This aims to encourage village independence in ensuring the welfare of rural communities. Village independence is described as a village that is capable of implementing rural development in order to improve the quality of life and welfare of rural communities through social, economic, and ecological resilience (Kemendesa PDPT, 2016). To measure the achievement of village independence, the Ministry of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration (Kementerian Desa, Pembangunan Daerah Tertinggal, dan Transmigrasi or Kemendesa PDPT) developed a benchmark called the Village Development Index (Indeks Desa Membangun or IDM) (Saragi, et al., 2021). The provisions related to the IDM are regulated in Regulation of the Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of the Republic of Indonesia Number 2 of 2016 concerning the Village Development Index (Permendes 2/2016).

Based on Permendes 2/2016, it is explained that IDM is a composite index formed by (1) the social index, which includes social capital, health, education, and settlement, (2) the economic index, which covers economic dimensions, and (3) the ecology or environment index, which covers ecological dimensions. The indicator components of IDM were developed based on the concept that in order to encourage villages to become advanced and independent, a sustainable development framework is needed, whereby rural development should maintain and harmonize social, economic, and ecological aspects (Rima, et al., 2023). The development of IDM aims to determine the progress and status of village independence and to provide basic data and information for rural development. In practice, IDM is used as a reference for village progress and independence to help villages understand their conditions and potential. Therefore, villages can formulate policies, strategies, and measures to support the improvement of rural development and IDM, which has an impact on improving rural life to become more advanced and independent (Rima, et al., 2023).

The presence of the village funds program has a positive impact on improving the IDM value (Ekawati, et al., 2022). Village funds budget distributed to villages in Indonesia have increased every year (Saragi, et al., 2021). In theory, the proper management of village funds should be able to improve the IDM status of villages. However, in practice, there are several villages that have not been able to improve their IDM status through village funds (Rima, et al., 2023). There are several factors that support and hinder the improvement of the IDM status. Supporting factors include the geographical location of the village, rural assistance, and rural finances, while hindering factors include the priority of village funds utilization, human resources, policies or regulations, and the mindset of rural communities (Rima, et al., 2023). Due to these factors, this study was conducted to determine the role of village funds in IDM status. The research location focused on Central Java Province. In a research study, Java Island played a major role in improving the IDM status of villages to developed, advanced, and independent (Saragi, et al., 2021). Therefore, the research focusing on the Java Region was necessary.

Central Java Province has 7,810 villages and 753 subdistricts spread across 35 districts/cities. The population of Central Java Province reaches 37,892,280 people. Central Java Province ranks third as the province with the largest population in Indonesia after West Java Province (1st place) and East Java Province (2nd place) (BPS

Jawa Tengah, 2024). In relation to the village funds program, it is known that the amount of village funds received by villages in Central Java Province has increased every year. In 2015, when the village fund program was first implemented, the village funds in Central Java Province reached IDR 1,065,688,274,000 (Presidential Regulation 162/2014). Meanwhile in 2025, the total allocation of village funds for villages in Central Java Province reached IDR 7,945,283,377,000 (Kementerian Keuangan, 2024). The increasing budget for village funds should be able to improve the welfare and living standards of rural communities. The presence of village funds should be utilized to support the rural development and the empowerment of rural communities in Central Java Province, thus increasing the IDM status of villages. Therefore, this research is important to determine the role of village funds in the IDM of Central Java Province.

Several studies have been conducted to observe the relationship between the village funds and IDM. Saragi et al. (2021) described and analyzed poverty alleviation after the village funds program in Indonesia. The study aims to observe how the village funds program affects the number of poor people in Indonesia and explore other related impacts by reviewing IDM. The results of the study show that the village funds increased and the poverty rate decreased by 15% in 2015-2019 period. During this period, there was an increase in the IDM status of districts/cities from mostly underdeveloped villages in 2015 to developing villages in 2019. Another study related to the village funds and IDM was conducted by Ekawati et al. (2022). Ekawati et al. (2022) conducted to determine the management and utilization of village funds in West Pasaman Regency and their implications for increasing IDM in West Pasaman Regency. This study showed that village funds have a positive effect on increasing IDM in the research object. The village funds management has supported the achievement of three indicators listed in the IDM, such as social resilience index, economic resilience index, and environmental resilience index. However, the improvement of IDM through village funds management has not been optimal in encouraging the development villages into advanced villages. There are several factors that support and hinder the improvement of the IDM status. Based on the research samples, it can be said that the village funds have a positive role in improving the IDM status of villages. Therefore, this study aims to describe the role of village funds on the status of the IDM status in Central Java Province. Hopefully, the results of this study can be a reference for stakeholders in formulating policies.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a descriptive method to describe the role of village funds in the IDM status in Central Java Province. Descriptive research is research that aims to describe or illustrate an actual condition/symptom/phenomenon. Descriptive research is not experimental research, so it does not require control over a treatment (Hikmawati, 2020). This study uses a descriptive method because it is in line with the research objective, which is to describe the role of village funds in the IDM status of Central Java Province based on actual conditions. This study uses secondary data as the main data collected from several institutions. The secondary data used is the amount of the village funds and the IDM value of Central Java Province in the 2016-2024 period. The data on the amount of village funds comes from the Ministry of Finance, while the IDM value data is issued by the Ministry of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration.

Based on Permendes 2/2016, the classification of village status is formulated with the following thresholds:

1. Very Underdeveloped Village: $IDM \leq 0.4907$
2. Underdeveloped Village: $0.4907 < IDM \leq 0.5989$
3. Developing Village: $0.5989 < IDM \leq 0.7072$
4. Advanced Village: $0.7072 < IDM \leq 0.8155$
5. Independent Village: $IDM > 0.8155$

In this descriptive study, the collected data is presented in tables or graphs. Furthermore, the data is processed using descriptive statistical techniques. These descriptive statistical techniques include frequency, mean, percentage, and other statistical analyses (Nassaji, 2015) to see the relationship between village funds and IDM status in Central Java Province.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Village Funds Budget of Central Java Province

The village funds program began in 2014 with the main objective of supporting rural development and empowering rural communities (Arifin, et al., 2020). The Indonesian government has made the village funds an ambitious program to grow the Indonesian economy starting from the villages (Permatasari, et al., 2021). Based on data obtained from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration, it is known that the village funds budget has increased every year. At the beginning of the release of the village funds program in 2015, the village funds budget reached 20.766 trillion rupiah, which was distributed to 74,093 villages. Nine years later, in 2024, the village funds budget amounted to 71 trillion rupiah (a threefold increase) which was distributed to 75,265 villages (Ditjen PDP, 2023).

Table 1 shows that between 2015 (20.766 trillion rupiah) and 2016 (46.98 trillion rupiah), the village funds budget grew approximately twofold (26.214 trillion rupiah), then gradually increased until 2025 to 71 trillion rupiah (threefold). The village funds budget decreased in 2022 to 68 trillion rupiah (previously 72 trillion rupiah in 2021). However, the village funds budget increased by around 50 trillion rupiah from 2015 to 2024 in general. This means that over the 9-year period, the average increase of the village funds budget reached around 5.6 trillion rupiah per year. The increase of the village funds budget was accompanied by an increased the number of villages in Indonesia. The number of villages in Indonesia increased by around 1,172 villages over the last 9 years, therefore the village funds budget also increased. During its implementation, the village funds have been considered capable of reducing the poverty rate in villages (Saragi, et al., 2021), and therefore it is important that the village funds program continues to be implemented. Villages in Indonesia are quite dependent on the presence of the village funds program (Nugroho, et al., 2022).

Table 1. Comparison of The Village Funds Budget in Central Java Province and Indonesia

Year	The Village Funds Budget	
	Central Java Province (IDR)	Indonesia (IDR)
2015	1,065,688,724,000	20.766.000.000.000,-
2016	5,002,426,341,000	46.980.000.000.000,-
2017	6,384,442,058,000	60.000.000.000.000,-
2018	6,737,083,091,000	60.000.000.000.000,-
2019	7,889,431,604,000	70.000.000.000.000,-
2020	8,200,608,609,000	71.000.000.000.000,-

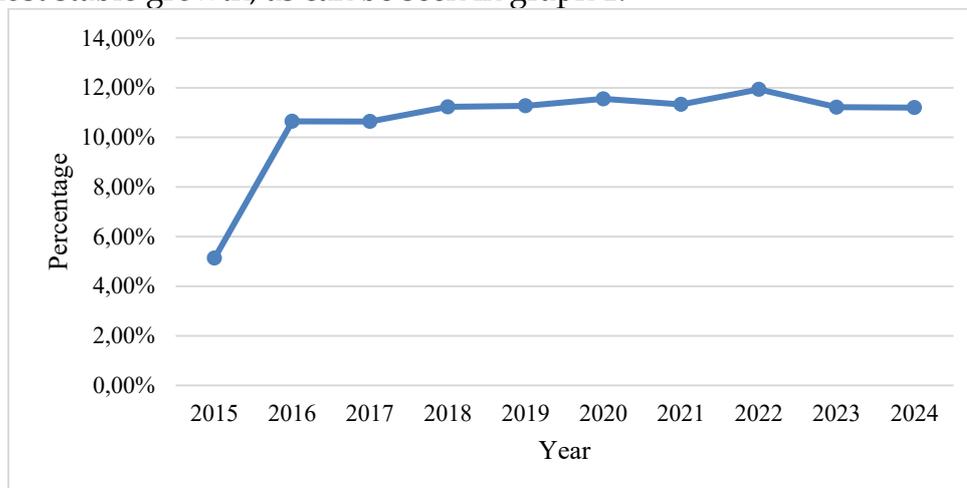
Table 1. Comparison of The Village Funds Budget in Central Java Province and Indonesia

2021	8,157,169,762,000	72.000.000.000.000,-
2022	8,116,178,993,000	68.000.000.000.000,-
2023	7,850,910,791,000	70.000.000.000.000,-
2024	7,952,173,390,000	71.000.000.000.000,-

Sumber: Analyzed by Author, 2025

Villages in Central Java Province have received the village funds since the program was first launched. Table 1 shows that Central Java Province received the village funds budget of around 1.066 trillion rupiah, which was distributed to 7,809 villages in 2015. In the following year (2016), the village funds budget for Central Java Province increased fivefold to 5.002 trillion rupiah. The increase of the village funds budget from 2015 to 2016 was the largest compared to other years. As can be seen in Table 1, the increase of the village funds budget for Central Java Province from 2017 to 2020 was occurred progressively. From 2021 to 2023, there was a decline in the village funds budget, which then increased again in 2024 to 7.952 trillion rupiah. Despite the decreasing, the village funds budget for Central Java Province has increased in general, with an average of around 765 billion rupiah per year. Based on 2024 period, the average of the village funds budget received by each village in Central Java Province is around IDR 1,018,204,019.

Table 1 shows the percentage of Central Java village funds budget relative to the total village funds budget in Indonesia. Based on Table 1, the allocation of Central Java village funds budget from 2015 to 2024 relative to the Indonesian village funds budget has a percentage of between 5.13% and 11.94%. In 2015, the village funds budget for Central Java had the smallest percentage, which is 5.13% of the total village funds budget in Indonesia. Meanwhile, the village funds budget of Central Java in 2022 has the largest percentage, reaching 11.94% of the total Indonesian village funds budget. On average, the percentage of Central Java village funds budget over the last 9 years has reached 10.62%. The growth of Central Java village funds budget experienced a significant increase from 2015 to 2016. In 2015, the percentage of the village funds budget was only 5.13%, then the percentage increased in 2016 to 10.65%. Furthermore, the percentage of Central Java village funds budget experienced gradual and almost stable growth, as can be seen in graph 1.



Graph 1. Percentage of Central Java Province Village Funds Budget to Indonesia Village Funds Budget in 2015-2024

Village Development Index (IDM) in Central Java Province

IDM was first introduced in 2015, based on rural potential data (Podes). In 2016, IDM was legally established through Minister of Villages Regulation Number 2 of 2016 (Permendes 2/2016). The IDM was created to support the rural development targets, which include lifting 5,000 underdeveloped villages out of poverty and improving at least 2,000 independent villages, as outlined in the National Medium-Term Development Plan for 2015-2019 periods (RPJMN 2015-2019). The presence of IDM is needed to provide the status of village independence that can serve as a basic guideline in determining the direction of rural development and rural communities empowerment, both for the central government or the rural government itself. The IDM can describe the condition of village independence development through the village funds support based on the implementation of the village law (Ditjen PPMD, 2020). The IDM serves as a guideline for the government to measure rural development as a source of information for policy making and formulation (Rima, et al., 2023).

The IDM is based on the concept that development is a process of accumulation between the social, economic, and ecological or environmental dimensions. The social, economic, and ecological dimensions act as a foundation to support sustainable rural development and rural communities empowerment (Rima, et al., 2023). Therefore, the IDM consists of three dimensions, which are the Social Index, Economic Index, and Ecological or Environmental Index. These three indexes are calculated using the formulas below.

$$IDM = \frac{1}{3}(IKS + IKE + IKL)$$

Keterangan :

IDM = The Village Development Index

IKL = The Ecological Environmental Resilience Index

IKE = The Economic Resilience Index

IKS = The Social Resilience Index

Based on the IDM measurement data as shown in Table 2, the IDM value of Central Java Province has increased each year. As for the IDM status, there has been one increase from developing to advanced. From 2016 to 2021, the IDM status of Central Java Province was developing, then from 2022 to 2024, the IDM status of Central Java Province was advanced. The IDM value for Central Java Province has increased by an average of around 0.017 each year, with the highest increase in 2019 (0.0207) and the lowest increase in 2021 (0.0110). A more detailed comparison of changes in Central Java's IDM can be seen in Table 3.

Table 2. Village Development Index for Central Java Province in 2016-2024

Year	The Value of IDM	The Status of IDM
2016	0,6292	Developing
2018	0,6475	Developing
2019	0,6682	Developing
2020	0,6820	Developing
2021	0,6930	Developing
2022	0,7118	Advanced
2023	0,7300	Advanced
2024	0,7485	Advanced

Sumber: Analyzed by Author, 2025

Table 3. Comparison of IDM Status in Central Java Province in 2016 and 2023

Year			
2016		2023	
The IDM of Central Java based on Districts		The IDM of Central Java based on Districts	
Status	Number	Status	Number
Very Underdeveloped	0	Very Underdeveloped	0
Underdeveloped	0	Underdeveloped	0
Developing	29	Developing	6
Advanced	0	Advanced	23
Independent	0	Independent	0
Total	29	Total	29
The IDM of Central Java based on Subdistricts		The IDM of Central Java based on Subdistricts	
Status	Number	Status	Number
Very Underdeveloped	0	Very Underdeveloped	0
Underdeveloped	111	Underdeveloped	0
Developing	400	Developing	166
Advanced	16	Advanced	346
Independent	0	Independent	18
Total	527	Total	530
The IDM of Central Java based on Villages		The IDM of Central Java based on Villages	
Status	Number	Status	Number
Very Underdeveloped	50	Very Underdeveloped	0
Underdeveloped	2535	Underdeveloped	32
Developing	4335	Developing	3307
Advanced	868	Advanced	3646
Independent	21	Independent	825
Total	7809	Total	7810

Sumber: Analyzed by Author, 2025

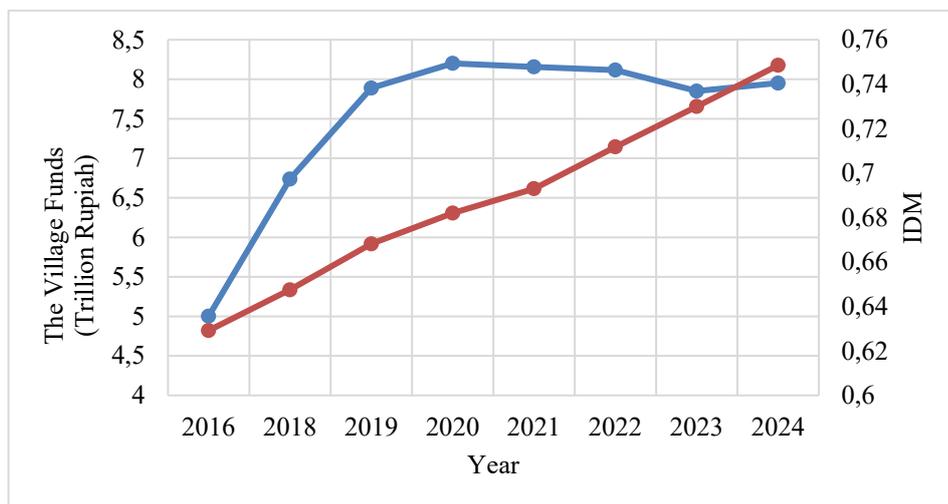
Table 3 shows the change in the IDM status of Central Java from the district, sub-district, to village levels. At the district level, it is clear that there has been a change in the number of districts with developing status from 29 in 2016 to 6 in 2023. A total of 23 districts have improved their status to advanced in 2023. Then, at the sub-district level, the change is noticeable in sub-districts with a underdeveloped status, which initially numbered 111 in 2016 to 0 in 2023. All sub-districts that were underdeveloped in 2016 have risen in status to developing, advanced, or independent. Finally, at the village level, there was a noticeable reduction in the number of very underdeveloped villages from 50 in 2016 to 0 in 2023. All very underdeveloped villages in Central Java Province are no longer existed. However, Central Java Province still has homework to eliminate the remaining 32 underdeveloped villages.

In terms of numbers, there was an increase of 804 independent villages and 2,778 advanced villages between 2016 and 2023, as well as a decrease of 50 very underdeveloped villages and 2,503 underdeveloped villages between 2016 and 2023. Table 3 also shows that the most common village status in 2016 was developing village with 4,335 villages (55.51%), followed by underdeveloped villages with 2,535 villages (32.46%) in second place. Meanwhile, the most common village status in 2023 is independent villages with 3,646 villages (46.68%), followed by developing villages with 3,307 villages (42.34%) in second place. Based on this data, it can be said that most

villages in Central Java Province have experienced an improvement in status with an increasing in the number of advanced and independent villages and a decreasing in the number of very underdeveloped and underdeveloped villages.

The Role of Village Funds in IDM for Central Java Province

It has been mentioned previously that the main objective of the village funds program is to encourage rural development and rural communities empowerment (Arifin, et al., 2020). The implementation of rural development and rural communities empowerment through the village funds program is expected to support the achievement of village independence. One of the benchmarks for achieving village independence is through the IDM. Several previous studies have found that the presence of the village funds program has an effect on improving the IDM status. According to Rima et al. (2022), the good management of village funds should help to improve the IDM status of villages. Figure 2 shows the trend comparison between village funds and the IDM of Central Java Province over the last 9 years (2016-2024). Based on Figure 2, the IDM trend in Central Java Province appears to have increased with an average increase of 0.017 each year. Meanwhile, the trend of the village funds budget has not always increased. Graph 2 shows that there was a reduction in the village funds budget for Central Java Province between 2021 and 2023. However, the village funds budget in Central Java Province continues to increase by 765 billion rupiah each year in general. Therefore, based on the graph, there is an increasing trend for both the village funds and the IDM values. The role of village funds used in rural development and rural communities empowerment has been able to encourage the increasing of IDM status in Central Java Province. The presence of the village funds program should be managed and utilized properly in order to encourage the increasing of the IDM status (Ekawati, et al., 2022).



Graph 2. Comparison of Village Funds Trend and IDM Trend in Central Java Province

CONCLUSION

The village funds are one of the Indonesian government's ambitious programs to promote equitable development and improve the economy starting from the rural level. Based on the Village Law, the village funds program aims to support rural development and rural communities empowerment. The expectation is that village funds will increase village independence. Therefore, indicators are needed to measure

the achievement of village independence. The Village Development Index or IDM is a benchmark that provides an overview the status of villages through 5 classifications, which are very underdeveloped villages, underdeveloped villages, developing villages, advanced villages, and independent villages. The IDM consists of 3 dimensions, which are the Social Index, Economic Index, and Ecology or Environment Index. The selection of these three dimensions is based on the concept of sustainable rural development should be guided by the social, economic, and ecological or environmental aspects. The presence of IDM can serve as a recommendation for the direction of rural development. The village funds program and the IDM collaborate to support the achievement of village independence.

Central Java Province is one of the provinces in Indonesia that receives the village funds each year. Based on the data, the village funds budget for Central Java Province has increased each year, reaching 765 billion rupiah between 2016 and 2024. The trend of the village funds has not increased entirely, there was a decreasing of the village funds for Central Java Province in 2021-2023. However, the village funds budget for Central Java Province has continued to increase in general. In 2015, the village funds budget for Central Java Province reached IDR 1,065,688,724,000. Meanwhile in 2024, the village funds budget for Central Java Province will reach IDR 7,952,173,390,000 (an increasing of around IDR 6,886,484,666,000). Each village in Central Java Province received around IDR 1,018,204,019 in 2024. This condition is also in line with the IDM value of Central Java Province. From 2016 to 2024, the IDM value of Central Java Province has shown an increasing trend. The IDM value of Central Java Province was initially 0.6292 with a developing status in 2016. Then, the IDM value of Central Java Province became 0.7485 with an advanced status. The IDM value increased by 0.1193 over a period of nine years. The increasing of the IDM value encouraged a change in the IDM status of Central Java Province from developing to advanced. Based on these trends, the increasing of the village funds budget is in line with the increasing of the IDM values in Central Java Province. The role of the village funds is described through the IDM increasing trend that occurred during the implementation of the village funds program. Thus, the village funds has a positive role for the IDM in Central Java Province.

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