



Vol. 01. No. 1, 2026

Received:
04 Mei 2026Accepted:
29 Juni 2026Published:
30 Juni 2026

Public Information Transparency Policy In Village Governance: Institutional Design, Accountability, And Community Empowerment In Indonesia

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Abstract

This study examines public information transparency policy in village governance as a strategic instrument to promote accountability, participation, and community empowerment in Indonesia. The research aims to analyze the institutional design, governance structure, and implementation challenges of information disclosure under Law No. 14 of 2008 on Public Information Disclosure. Using a qualitative policy analysis approach, this study evaluates the interaction between constitutional mandates, legal frameworks, and institutional practices, particularly focusing on the role of Information and Documentation Management Officers (PPID). The findings reveal that public information transparency constitutes a rights-based governance model in which the state acts as an information guarantor and facilitator of participatory governance. However, implementation at the village level remains uneven due to institutional capacity gaps, limited digital infrastructure, low public literacy, and bureaucratic resistance. These challenges create a significant gap between normative frameworks and empirical practices. This study proposes the concept of Village-Based Transparency Governance as an integrated policy model emphasizing institutional strengthening, digital transformation, and community engagement. The findings contribute to public governance literature and offer practical recommendations for enhancing transparency, accountability, and sustainable rural development.

Keywords: public information transparency, village governance, PPID, participatory democracy, public policy

JEL Classification: D73, H83

INTRODUCTION

Public information transparency has evolved into a fundamental pillar of modern democratic and accountable governance. The right to access information is no longer viewed merely as an administrative right but as a fundamental human right that enables citizens to actively participate in public decision-making processes. In this context, transparency serves as a critical instrument in fostering

a balanced and open relationship between the state and society. Without adequate access to information, citizens face significant limitations in exercising social control over government actions. Therefore, public information disclosure policies are essential in establishing inclusive, responsive, and accountable governance systems (Florini, 2007; Mendel, 2008).

Furthermore, contemporary democratic developments highlight the strong relationship between transparency and public participation. Open access to information enables citizens to better understand public policies and engage meaningfully in governance processes. Transparency also plays a vital role in strengthening accountability mechanisms by allowing citizens to monitor government performance. In the absence of transparency, the risk of corruption and abuse of power increases due to limited public oversight. Thus, transparency functions not only as a right but also as a governance mechanism that reinforces democratic accountability (Fox, 2007).

In Indonesia, the right to access information is constitutionally guaranteed under Article 28F of the 1945 Constitution, which affirms that every individual has the right to obtain information for personal and social development. This constitutional mandate is operationalized through Law No. 14 of 2008 on Public Information Disclosure (KIP Law), which establishes a comprehensive legal framework for transparency across all public institutions, including village and sub-district governments. This law obliges public bodies to provide accurate, timely, and accessible information to the public (Republic of Indonesia, 2008).

The significance of transparency becomes particularly evident at the village level, where governance is closest to citizens. Village administrations manage substantial public resources, including village funds, local budgets (APBDes), and development programs. Without transparency, these resources are vulnerable to mismanagement and corruption. Therefore, public information transparency is essential for ensuring accountability and promoting inclusive and sustainable rural development (Antlov et al., 2016).

Previous studies have demonstrated that public information transparency positively influences accountability and citizen participation. Grimmelikhuijsen and Meijer (2014) found that transparency enhances public trust in government institutions. Similarly, Meijer et al. (2012) emphasized that open government practices improve public service delivery and governance performance. In decentralized contexts, Faguet (2014) showed that transparency strengthens local governance and improves development outcomes.

However, the literature also identifies challenges in implementing transparency policies. Worthy (2010) argues that transparency alone does not guarantee accountability without adequate institutional capacity. Janssen et al. (2012) further highlight that digital transparency initiatives often face infrastructural and technological barriers. These findings suggest that effective transparency requires not only regulatory frameworks but also strong institutional support and public awareness.

This study contributes to the literature by proposing the concept of Village-Based Transparency Governance, which integrates institutional strengthening, digital innovation, and community participation into a unified policy framework. Unlike previous studies that focus primarily on normative or technological aspects,

this research provides a comprehensive analysis of transparency as a governance system at the village level. Additionally, the study emphasizes the strategic role of PPID as a key institutional actor bridging legal mandates and practical implementation. This contribution is expected to enrich discussions on rural governance and public policy innovation.

METHODS

This research adopts a qualitative approach using policy analysis as its primary methodological framework. This approach is suitable for examining the interaction between legal norms, institutional structures, and implementation practices in public information transparency policies.

Data were collected through document analysis, including legal frameworks such as Law No. 14 of 2008, Law No. 6 of 2014 on Villages, regulations issued by the Information Commission, and relevant academic literature. The analysis employs a descriptive-interpretative method focusing on three main dimensions: policy design, institutional structure (particularly PPID), and implementation challenges.

This methodological approach allows for a critical evaluation of how transparency policies function in practice and their effectiveness in promoting accountability and citizen participation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The findings indicate that public information transparency policy at the village level constitutes a rights-based governance system that integrates legal, institutional, and technological dimensions. This model reflects a shift in governance paradigms where access to information is positioned as a fundamental right rather than a discretionary administrative practice. The integration of these three dimensions ensures that transparency is not only formally guaranteed but also operationally implemented. In this context, the legal framework provides legitimacy, institutions ensure execution, and technology enhances accessibility. Together, these elements create a comprehensive system aimed at strengthening democratic governance at the grassroots level.

Normatively, the policy provides a strong legal foundation that guarantees citizens' right to access information. This foundation is rooted in constitutional principles and reinforced by statutory regulations that mandate openness in public administration. The existence of clear legal provisions ensures that transparency is not optional but obligatory for all public bodies, including village governments. Moreover, these regulations establish standards for information disclosure, including timeliness, accuracy, and accessibility. As a result, the legal dimension serves as a critical pillar in ensuring that citizens can exercise their rights effectively.

The classification of public information into periodic, immediate, and on-demand categories plays a crucial role in facilitating structured information disclosure. Periodic information includes routine data such as financial reports and

development plans, which must be published regularly. Immediate information refers to urgent matters affecting public safety or welfare, requiring prompt dissemination. On-demand information allows citizens to request specific data when needed, ensuring flexibility in access. This classification system helps streamline the management of information and ensures that different types of data are handled appropriately.

Institutionally, the presence of Information and Documentation Management Officers (PPID) plays a central role in managing public information at the village level. PPID serves as the primary unit responsible for collecting, processing, storing, and disseminating information to the public. Their existence institutionalizes transparency within the governance structure, ensuring that information management is not left to ad hoc practices. Furthermore, PPID operates as a formal interface between the government and citizens, facilitating communication and information exchange. This institutional arrangement is essential for maintaining consistency and accountability in transparency practices.

Beyond their administrative role, PPID functions as a mediator between the government and citizens. This mediating role is particularly important in addressing information asymmetry and building trust between the two parties. By responding to information requests and clarifying public concerns, PPID contributes to a more transparent and responsive governance system. Additionally, PPID plays a role in resolving disputes related to information access, ensuring that conflicts are managed in accordance with legal provisions. Through these functions, PPID strengthens both transparency and public engagement.

In several cases, villages have successfully implemented digital transparency through the use of official websites and information systems. These digital platforms allow for the dissemination of information in a more efficient, accessible, and cost-effective manner. Citizens can access data related to budgets, development programs, and administrative decisions without physical barriers. Digitalization also enables real-time updates, ensuring that information remains current and relevant. As a result, the use of technology significantly enhances both accessibility and accountability in village governance.

The adoption of digital tools also contributes to improving administrative efficiency within village governments. Information systems help streamline data management processes, reducing the risk of errors and inconsistencies. They also facilitate better record-keeping and documentation, which are essential for transparency and accountability. Furthermore, digital platforms can support interactive features, such as feedback mechanisms and online consultations, which enhance citizen participation. This demonstrates that technology is not only a tool for information dissemination but also a medium for engagement.

However, despite these advancements, the implementation of transparency policies varies significantly across regions. Some villages have made substantial progress in adopting transparency practices, while others lag behind. This variation is influenced by differences in resources, leadership, and institutional capacity. As a result, the benefits of transparency are not evenly distributed among communities. This uneven implementation highlights the need for more coordinated and inclusive policy efforts.

Many villages continue to face challenges related to limited human resources and inadequate infrastructure. The lack of trained personnel hampers the ability of PPID to perform their duties effectively. Additionally, insufficient technological infrastructure, such as poor internet connectivity and lack of equipment, limits the use of digital platforms. These constraints reduce the overall effectiveness of transparency initiatives. Without addressing these structural issues, the implementation of transparency policies will remain suboptimal.

Furthermore, insufficient understanding of transparency regulations among both officials and citizens contributes to implementation challenges. Many village officials are not fully aware of their obligations under transparency laws, leading to inconsistent practices. At the same time, low public awareness reduces the demand for information, weakening accountability mechanisms. These disparities highlight a significant gap between policy design and actual implementation. Therefore, bridging this gap requires comprehensive efforts that address legal awareness, institutional capacity, and technological readiness simultaneously.

Discussion

The study demonstrates that public information transparency has strong potential as a tool for community empowerment. Access to information enables citizens to participate actively in development planning, monitoring, and evaluation processes. This aligns with participatory governance theories that emphasize the importance of informed citizen engagement.

Nevertheless, the effectiveness of transparency policies depends heavily on institutional capacity. Weak institutional structures and limited technical skills among village officials hinder the optimal implementation of PPID functions. In addition, the lack of standardized procedures and monitoring mechanisms contributes to inconsistent service quality.

Public literacy also emerges as a critical factor. Many rural communities are unaware of their rights to access information, limiting their ability to utilize transparency mechanisms. This issue is compounded by the digital divide, where access to technology remains uneven.

The findings suggest that transparency policy represents a shift toward participatory governance, where the state acts as a facilitator rather than a dominant authority. This transformation reflects broader changes in public administration, emphasizing collaboration and citizen engagement.

However, achieving this transformation requires systemic support, including institutional strengthening, regulatory clarity, and technological integration. Without these elements, transparency policies risk becoming symbolic rather than effective.

The results are consistent with Grimmelikhuisen and Meijer (2014), who argue that transparency enhances trust and accountability. However, this study extends previous findings by highlighting the importance of local institutional capacity and community literacy in determining policy effectiveness.

Theoretically, this study reinforces the concept of rights-based governance in public policy. Practically, it provides actionable recommendations for improving

transparency implementation through institutional capacity building, digitalization, and community education.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

Public information transparency policy at the village level represents a strategic instrument for promoting accountability, participation, and community empowerment. It plays a crucial role in transforming village governance from a traditionally hierarchical system into a more participatory and inclusive model, where citizens are actively involved in decision-making processes. Through transparency, communities are able to access essential information related to village budgets, development planning, and public services, which in turn strengthens social control and reduces the risk of corruption and misuse of authority. Moreover, transparency fosters trust between the government and citizens, creating a more collaborative governance environment that supports sustainable rural development.

Recommendations

The recommendations to improve the implementation of public information transparency policies at the village level emphasize several strategic actions. First, strengthening the capacity of Information and Documentation Management Officers (PPID) is essential, particularly through structured training programs and continuous technical assistance to enhance their understanding of information management, service procedures, and regulatory compliance. Second, the development of integrated digital information systems at the village level is necessary to ensure that public information can be accessed efficiently, transparently, and in real time, thereby improving both service quality and accountability. Third, increasing public awareness and literacy regarding the right to access information is crucial, as many citizens are still unaware of their legal rights and the mechanisms available to obtain public information. This effort requires systematic education and outreach programs targeting rural communities. Finally, strengthening collaboration with civil society organizations and oversight institutions, such as the Information Commission, is important to reinforce external accountability mechanisms, encourage community participation, and ensure that transparency policies are implemented consistently and sustainably.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author would like to express sincere gratitude to all institutions and individuals who contributed to this study. Special thanks are extended to the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia and local government offices for providing access to official policy documents, including Presidential Instruction No. 17 of 2025 and the Draft Minister of Finance Regulation (RPMK) 2025. The

author also acknowledges the valuable insights from academic literature on public finance, institutional economics, and cooperative governance that informed this research. Any errors or omissions remain the sole responsibility of the author.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The author was responsible for all aspects of this study, including conceptualization, research design, data collection, document analysis, interpretation of findings, and manuscript writing. The author also performed the literature review, developed the conceptual framework of hybrid fiscal-backed cooperative finance, and formulated policy recommendations.

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