ABSTRAK

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT IN UTILIZING VILLAGE FUND AT KAMPUNG WERSAR IN TEMINABUAN *DISTRICT OF* SORONG SELATAN *REGENCY*

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Village government holds an essential role in improving the welfare of its people through empowerment based on local potential. Village funds are utilized for agricultural support and strengthening food security. However, its implementation still faces challenges such as a lack of community participation, limited infrastructure, and low capacity of the officials. The success of this strategy depends on the transparency, the community involvement, and proper management. This study aims to analyze the strategy of community empowerment in utilizing the village funds at Kampung Wersar in Teminabuan *District of* Sorong Selatan *Regency.*

This study applied a descriptive qualitative method. The research stages consisted of four stages, which began with the research preparation, data collection, data analysis, and research data compilation. The sources of data included primary and secondary sources.

The result shows that the community empowerment in Kampung Wersar *has not been effective. The enabling dimension is low due to the limited and unsustainable socialization. The empowering dimension has not been optimal due to the shortage of training, limited information, and supporting infrastructures. The protecting dimension remains weak due to the regulation, supervision, and community involvement in maintaining the program's sustainability. Therefore, this study suggests a more effective community empowerment in Kampung Wersar. Thus, the village government needs to widen inclusive socialization, improve training based on local potential, as well as strengthen the regulation and participatory supervision. Information digitization and aid distribution based on data are also important to ensure transparency and fairness.*

Keywords: Empowerment, Village Fund, Village Government.

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