

Safeguarding village funds: Strategies to prevent corruption

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ABSTRACT

The rampant cases of village fund corruption in Malang Regency have resulted in the main purpose of village funds, which should be allocated for village development and community empowerment, not being able to run as expected. This study aims to obtain an overview and understanding related to the preparation and implementation of village fund corruption prevention strategies by the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency. In addition, this study also aims to analyze the causal factors for the ongoing occurrence of village fund corruption cases even though the Regional Inspectorate has prepared and implemented corruption prevention strategies. This qualitative study uses a case study approach. The results of this study indicate that there are two types of village fund corruption prevention strategies implemented by the Regional Inspectorate: ex-ante control strategy and ex-post control strategy. The imbalance in the implementation of the two strategies causes the strategies that have been implemented to not be fully able to minimize the factors that cause village fund corruption. These factors include pressure, opportunity, rationalization, integrity, capability, arrogance, and the culture in village head elections. This study is expected to provide input related to the implementation of village fund corruption prevention strategies in Malang Regency.

ABSTRAK

Banyaknya kasus korupsi dana desa di Kabupaten Malang menyebabkan tujuan utama dana desa yang seharusnya dialokasikan untuk pembangunan desa dan pemberdayaan masyarakat tidak dapat berjalan sebagaimana mestinya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memperoleh gambaran dan pemahaman terkait penyusunan dan penerapan strategi pencegahan korupsi dana desa oleh Inspektorat Daerah Kabupaten Malang. Lebih lanjut, penelitian ini juga bertujuan untuk menganalisis faktor-faktor penyebab masih terjadinya kasus korupsi dana desa meskipun inspektorat daerah telah menyusun dan menerapkan strategi pencegahan korupsi. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi kasus. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat dua strategi pencegahan korupsi dana desa yang dilaksanakan oleh inspektorat daerah, yaitu strategi pengendalian ex-ante dan strategi pengendalian ex-post. Ketimpangan penerapan kedua strategi ini menyebabkan strategi yang sudah ada tidak sepenuhnya mampu meminimalkan faktor-faktor penyebab korupsi dana desa. Faktor-faktor tersebut antara lain tekanan, peluang, rasionalisasi, integritas, kemampuan, arogansi, dan budaya kepala desa. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan masukan terkait dengan pelaksanaan strategi pencegahan korupsi dana desa agar kasus korupsi tidak terjadi lagi di Kabupaten Malang.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, the village is the smallest government unit closest to the community, so that the welfare of the community depends on the implementation of village development. Therefore, the central government seeks to strengthen the position of the village and clarify the functions and authorities of the village through the issuance of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages. As support for the implementation of the Law on Villages, the central government has issued policies related to village financial management, commonly referred to as village funds. The purpose of distributing village funds is to fulfill the state's commitment to building and empowering village communities to become resilient, advanced, independent, and democratic communities (Ministry of Finance, 2021). The distribution of village funds is expected to have a positive impact on economic growth at the village level. However, it turns out that the distribution of village funds also has a negative impact because of the potential for misuse of these funds by related parties (Yuwono, 2022). According to Indonesian Corruption Watch (ICW), the trend of corruption in village governments has continued to increase since the enactment of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages. The latest ICW survey conducted in the first semester of 2022 showed that village governments had the highest number of corruption cases, potentially causing state losses of up to IDR 289 billion (Anandya, 2022). The potential for financial losses increased compared to the previous year, which reached IDR 233 billion (Ameliya, 2022). The Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) also said that corruption cases related to village funds were among the top three corruption cases in state financial management (Apriliano, 2022). The survey results conducted by ICW and KPK indicate that cases of corruption involving village funds are a critical issue that needs to be addressed. In addition, the survey results also reveal that cases of corruption in village funds

are increasingly frequent in various regions of Indonesia.

One of the regions entangled in village fund corruption cases in recent years is Malang Regency. Based on the Details of Allocation of Transfers to Regions and Village Funds (TKDD) in the State Budget issued by the Directorate General of Fiscal Balance, Malang Regency is one of the regions receiving the largest allocation of village funds in East Java and continues to increase from year to year. Details of village funds received by Malang Regency are presented in Table 1 below.

According to Teguh & Bahtiar (2021), large village funds will be more susceptible to misappropriation. The larger the budget, the greater the potential for corruption. This phenomenon has occurred in Malang Regency. The large village fund budget that should have been used to advance all villages in Malang Regency was not managed properly and was even corrupted by several village heads.

There are five cases of village fund corruption in Malang Regency and have been officially handled by law enforcement. First, in 2019, the Head of Balarjo Village, Pagelaran District, Malang Regency, was named a suspect by the Malang Police for a corruption case related to village funds in the 2015-2016 budget years. This case resulted in the cancellation of a number of village development plans and state losses of Rp. 416.5 million (Kiswara, 2019a). Second, still in 2019, the Malang Police named a suspect in a corruption case of village funds in the 2017 budget year. This case involved the Head of Tlogosari Village, Tirtoyudo District, Malang Regency. The funds that should have been used for infrastructure development were instead misused for personal gain. As a result, the construction of the village hall was not completed and resulted in a state loss of IDR 429 million. (Kiswara, 2019b). Third, in 2020, the Malang Police named the former Head of Slamparejo Village, Jabung District, Malang Regency as a suspect in a corruption case of Village Funds for the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years.

Table 1
Details of Village Funds

| Year | Total Village Fund | Notes |
|------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 2020 | IDR 127.4 billion | 5th largest in East Java |
| 2021 | IDR 388 billion | 2nd largest in East Java |
| 2022 | IDR 409.1 billion | 1st largest in East Java |
| 2023 | IDR 452.5 billion | 1st largest in East Java |

Source: Directorate General of Fiscal Balance

The funds that should have been used for various purposes in Slamparejo Village were instead misused for personal gain, resulting in a state loss of IDR 609,342,160 (Midaada, 2020). Fourth, in 2021, the Head of Tulus Besar Village, Tumpang District, Malang Regency was caught in a case of embezzlement of village funds for the 2020 fiscal year, resulting in a state loss of IDR 240 million (Kiswara, 2021). Fifth, in 2022, the Head of Kalipare Village, Kalipare District, Malang Regency was also caught in a corruption case of Village Funds for the 2019 fiscal year. The funds that should have been used for the development of Kalipare Village were instead misused for personal interests, resulting in state financial losses of up to IDR 423.8 million (Lindawati, 2022). The repeated financial losses incurred by the state due to the irresponsible actions of these village heads underscore the critical importance of addressing village fund corruption as a significant issue that warrants further examination by the government.

Repeated cases of village fund corruption have resulted in the primary objectives of the village funds, which should be allocated for village development and empowerment, not being realized as they should. Therefore, efforts to prevent corruption and minimize future occurrences are needed. Corruption prevention measures must be taken by the Indonesian government, including the Internal Government Supervisory Apparatus (APIP). According to BPKP (2023), APIP has the right strategic positioning to effectively promote fraud prevention. As part of APIP, the Regency/City Regional Inspectorate is an agency responsible for overseeing the management of village funds (Herlinda, 2021). According to BPPKPD (2022), the main focus of the supervisory task is to prevent possible errors from occurring and correct errors that have occurred so that fraud will not occur again in the future. The ongoing cases of village fund corruption indicate that the performance of the Regency/City Regional Inspectorate in preventing corruption still needs further optimization. According to Poima & Hapsari (2020), proper implementation of prevention strategies can reduce the potential for corruption in village fund management.

Several previous studies have discussed issues related to preventing village fund corruption, such as Puspasari (2015), Jayawarsa et al (2022), Tampubolon & Rianto (2022), Hamid & Nasih (2021), Nusantara, et al (2020), Wahyudi et al. (2022) and (Sherliana

& Nuswantara, 2021). However, the topic related to the implementation of village fund corruption prevention strategies by involving the District/City Regional Inspectorate, as the government's internal audit institution, has rarely been studied in depth in previous studies. Most previous studies have focused more on efforts to prevent village fund corruption carried out by the village government, even though internal government auditors also play an important role in preventing village fund corruption. This study focuses on the challenges faced by The Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency in implementing village fund corruption prevention measures. To address these challenges, the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency needs to develop and implement prevention strategies that can minimize the occurrence of village fund corruption. The ongoing cases of village fund corruption indicate that the development and implementation of these strategies still need to be further optimized. This study aims to obtain an overview and understanding of the process of formulating and implementing strategies carried out by the Malang Regency Inspectorate to prevent village fund corruption. In addition, this study also analyzes the factors that cause village fund corruption cases. By identifying the factors that cause village fund corruption, it will be possible to identify areas that need to be optimized for the formulation and implementation of anti-corruption strategies. Thus, it will be possible for the Malang Regency Regional Inspectorate to minimize the triggers for village fund corruption. Analysis of the factors causing village fund corruption can be done using the fraud square model theory. According to Saluja, Aggarwal, & Mittal (2021), the fraud square model theory is a result of the development of the fraud triangle theory and is relatively new, so it has not been widely used in previous research.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND HYPOTHESES

To overcome the ongoing occurrence of fraud, it is necessary to develop a model in accordance with the development of existing problems. According to the traditional model, there are three factors that cause fraud: pressure, opportunity, and rationalization, or better known as the fraud triangle theory. In a study conducted by Saluja et al. (2021), it was stated that if a person has integrity, moral values, and ethics, he or she is less likely to engage

in fraudulent behavior. Conversely, a person with low integrity will be more susceptible to fraud. Therefore, according to Saluja et al. (2021), there are four factors that cause fraud: pressure, opportunity, rationalization, and integrity. Below is an illustration of the fraud square model developed by Saluja et al. (2021).

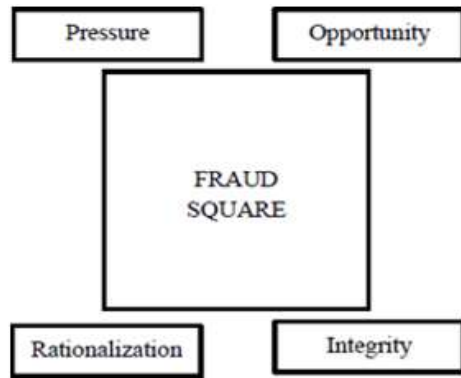


Figure 2
Fraud Square Model

Source: Saluja et al. (2021)

According to Ubaidillah (2019), in Raza et al. (2021), there are many factors to measure integrity. These factors include:

- a. Honesty
Honesty refers to an individual's capacity to honestly take responsibility for the actions he or she has taken. An individual with a high level of integrity will respond and handle situations wisely. He or she will consider many things and refrain from causing harm.
- b. Firmness
Firmness pertains to an individual's disposition to adhere to principles while fulfilling obligations and to remain resolute when tempted to engage in deceitful actions, even in the face of alluring material incentives.
- c. Strong self-control
Individuals displaying this trait possess the capability to exert self-control, ensuring alignment with their life goals and moral standards.
- d. High self-esteem
Individuals characterized by this trait exhibit behavior congruent with their moral convictions.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

This qualitative study is conducted using a case study approach. The object of this study is

the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency. The reason for selecting this object is because there have been ongoing cases of village fund corruption in Malang Regency. In this regard, the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency plays a crucial role in preventing cases of village fund corruption through the proper implementation of prevention strategies. Furthermore, the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency also has a good understanding of the occurrences of village fund corruption in village governments.

Data Collection Techniques

The data used in this study were obtained from two sources: primary data and secondary data. Primary data were obtained directly from research subjects through in-depth interviews, while secondary data were obtained from available documents related to the research topic. Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with respondents to obtain more detailed insights related to the research topic. In this study, respondents were selected using purposive sampling techniques. The respondents selected were individuals who had the authority and knowledge about village fund corruption cases in Malang Regency and corruption prevention strategies carried out by the Regional Inspectorate in Malang Regency. Therefore, the respondents to be interviewed are as follows.

- a. Secretariat of the Planning Sub-Division, Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency
- b. Secretariat of the Analysis and Evaluation Sub-Division, Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency
- c. Secretary of the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency
- d. Assistant Inspector for Region V of Malang Regency
- e. Middle-Level Auditors, Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency
- f. Head of the Village Governance Division, Department of Community Empowerment and Village Affairs
- g. Village Secretary X
- h. The member of the Village Consultative Body (BPD)

Data Analysis Techniques

In this study, data analysis was carried out using research framework proposed by Miles and Huberman (1994). First, the interview data was transcribed from audio to text. This was done to facilitate data processing and analysis.

Second, data summarization was carried out from the available transcripts. During the data reduction process, sentences relevant to the research objectives were coded. Codes that had similar meanings were then grouped into categories. Then, related categories were arranged thematically according to the research objectives. A deductive approach was used in the process involving data reduction starting from theory to data and then back to theory (Hartono, 2018). In this context, theory serves as a guide on how data is reduced, directing the coding, categorization, and thematization processes. Third, data presentation is carried out. Fourth, conclusions are drawn or verified based on the data reduction and presentation processes that have been carried out.

Data Validation Techniques

In assessing the quality of research data analysis, this study uses qualitative validity testing and qualitative reliability testing. Qualitative validity testing is conducted through:

- a. Triangulation of sources: comparing interview results from one respondent with those from others
- b. Triangulation of Techniques: comparing interview results with related documents.
- c. Member checking: reviewing the data obtained from respondents to assess data accuracy.

Subsequently, qualitative reliability testing is carried out by reviewing the interview transcript results to ensure that there is no error in the data transcription process. Additionally, a double-check is performed on the definitions and meanings associated with the codes in the coding process to ensure that there is no bias in the coding.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION **Development and Implementation of Anti-Corruption Strategies for Village Funds by the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency**

There are two stages of corruption prevention strategies for village funds implemented by the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency: the development of village fund corruption prevention strategies and the implementation of village fund corruption prevention strategies.

Development of Village Fund Corruption Prevention Strategies

There are 5 stages in the development of village fund corruption prevention strategies

conducted by the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency.

Problem Identification

The Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency analyzes the factors that may contribute to village fund corruption.

Problem Classification

The Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency categorizes issues according to the types of problems currently occurring.

Abstraction Process

The Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency analyzes the factors that may contribute to village fund corruption.

Strategy Determination

The Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency determines the most appropriate strategy to solve the problem by referring to the routine programs established by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Implementation Planning

The Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency begins implementing the strategy by consistently involving stakeholders, including the activity implementers.

Implementation of Village Fund Corruption Prevention Strategies

The implementation of village fund corruption prevention strategies carried out by the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency is divided into 2 types of strategies, namely ex-ante control strategies and ex-post control strategies. This is in line with the research conducted by Srirejeki (2020) that in general, corruption prevention strategies are divided into 2: ex-ante control strategies and ex-post control strategies.

Ex-Ante Control Strategies

Dissemination

The dissemination activities for the prevention of village fund corruption are aimed at village officials and are conducted regularly every month. However, these dissemination activities can only be conducted alternately, so on average, dissemination is only carried out once in a year in each village. This is due to the limited number of personnel in the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency, which is not comparable to the number of villages in Malang Regency.

Addition of Regional Assistant Inspectors

The decision to add Regional Assistant Inspectors made by the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency is expected to reduce the workload, allowing each Regional Assistant Inspector to focus more on their work and perform optimally. However, the uneven quality of supervisory personnel can hinder the achievement of the goals of this strategy of adding Regional Assistant Inspectors.

Utilization of Information Technology

There are two applications used by the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency to prevent village fund corruption: "*siswaskeudes*" (village financial supervision system) and "*sidasi*" (anti-corruption village monitoring system). These applications cannot be used effectively yet because they still require improvements to be fully utilized.

Audit

There are two types of audits conducted by the inspectorate to prevent village fund corruption: post-audit and ongoing audit. However, these two types of audits cannot be conducted every year in each village due to the limited number of personnel in the Inspectorate of Malang Regency, which is not comparable to the number of villages in Malang Regency.

Consultation

Consultation activities can be carried out formally or informally. In carrying out these activities, the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency faces two challenges. First, there is an uneven level of competence among auditors in providing consultations, resulting in different guidance being given to villages by different auditors. Second, there are still several villages that are not clear about the role of the inspectorate in terms of consultation.

Ex-Post Control Strategies

The implementation of ex-post control strategy takes the form of imposing penalties on village officials who commit violations or embezzlement of village funds. In imposing penalties on corrupt individuals, the Inspectorate of Malang Regency is involved in providing administrative sanctions by recommending the punishment to be imposed on the wrongdoer. Additionally, the Inspectorate of Malang Regency can also be involved in imposing criminal sanctions by conducting investigative audits.

Causes of Ongoing Village Fund Corruption

This study uses the Fraud Square Theory to identify the causal factors of the ongoing corruption of village funds in Malang Regency. This theory explains that there are four driving factors for fraud: pressure, opportunity, rationalization, and integrity. Based on the research findings, there are seven factors causing village fund corruption in Malang Regency, such as pressure, opportunity, rationalization, integrity, capability, arrogance, and culture in village head elections. This indicates that there are additional factors not explained in the fraud square theory, such as capability, arrogance, and culture in village head elections.

Pressure

Pressure is a factor that arises when an individual is under pressure that can drive him or her to commit fraud. In this study, the pressure felt by the village head is one of the driving factors for village fund corruption. This statement aligns with the findings of research conducted by Purba, et al. (2022) to determine the form of supervision carried out by the Langkat Regency Government in the use of village funds, to analyze the effect of corruption detection on the management of village funds in Langkat Regency. Supervision of village fund management involves the community. Increased knowledge and capacity of village officials is needed to update knowledge in managing village funds. The model and technical analysis of the data in this research is the structural equation modeling-partial least squares (SEM-PLS) that corruption of village funds occurs due to pressure received by the perpetrators. There are 3 pressures that drive individuals to commit village fund corruption in Malang Regency: personal interests, greed, and the need for a luxurious lifestyle.

Opportunity

Opportunity is a factor that arises when an individual has access to do something wrong. In this study, there are several opportunities that drive village fund corruption. This statement aligns with the findings of research conducted by Sherliana & Nuswantara (2021) that opportunities have a significant positive impact on the potential for village fund embezzlement, so the more opportunities, the higher the likelihood of fraud occurring. Some opportunities that contribute to the ongoing

village fund corruption in Malang Regency include the apathetic attitude of village officials, lack of control in using the village financial management system (siskeudes), and insufficient oversight from the Village Consultative Body (BPD).

Rationalization

Rationalization is a factor that describes the condition in which an individual tries to justify his or her fraudulent actions. In this study, rationalization is one of the driving factors behind village fund corruption. This statement aligns with the results of research conducted by Sherliana & Nuswantara (2021) that rationalization has a significant positive impact on the potential for village fund embezzlement. The higher a person's level of rationalization, the greater the possibility for him to commit fraudulent acts. There are two rationalization attitudes that cause village heads to commit corruption of village funds. The first is the belief that the cost of village head elections is worthy of being reimbursed. The second is the belief that borrowing money from village funds by village heads is normal and acceptable.

Integrity

According to the Competency Behavior Dictionary, integrity means acting consistently, aligning words with behavior in accordance with the values adopted, such as moral values and codes of ethics that apply in the workplace (Raza et al., 2021). Individuals with low integrity are more inclined to commit fraud. Village heads involved in village fund corruption cases tend to have low integrity, and some may even be considered to have no integrity at all. According to Schlenker in (Raza et al., 2021), integrity can be interpreted as an individual's firm commitment to ethical ideology and part of the self-concept shown through his/her behavior. This statement is in line with the results of this study that the quality of integrity can be shown through the character and commitment of the village head in carrying out his/her duties. Bad character accompanied by low commitment can motivate the village head to commit corruption of village funds. The results of this study are consistent with the results of research conducted by Alam et al. (2018) that integrity has a negative impact on corruption. Therefore, it can be concluded that someone with high integrity is less likely to engage in corruption, whereas someone

with low integrity is more likely to be inclined towards corruption.

Capability

In general, capability can be defined as an individual's skills, knowledge, talents, and behavior in performing tasks (Wahyudi et al., 2022). In the management of village funds, having high-quality capabilities among village officials is essential (Arfidawati, et al., 2022) because when the human resources' capabilities in terms of education are weak, it will become a constraint in financial management at the village level, thereby increasing the risk of fraud (Apriliana & Agustina, 2017). This study finds that, on average, the quality of human resources among village officials is still relatively low, which can lead to village fund corruption. In the administration of village funds, many village officials still lack an understanding of how to manage village funds properly, and some are not even familiar with the relevant regulations. The results of this study support the results of research conducted by Atmadja & Saputra (2018) that the low competence of village officials has a significant influence on the embezzlement of village funds.

Arrogance

Arrogance is an attitude of superiority shown by a person regarding his authority, believing that someone who has power in an organization is immune to the rules and internal controls in that organization (Marks, 2014). In the Law on Villages, it is stated that the village head is the holder of the authority for managing village finances. Additionally, the village head also has the authority to coordinate participatory village development. Granting authority to the village head is very risky when the village head is unable to control his arrogant attitude. The results of this study support Mark's statement that arrogance is one of the driving factors behind fraud.

Culture in Village Head Elections

Money politics is a bad culture that always occurs during village head elections in Malang Regency. Money politics is carried out by village head candidates by giving money or goods to prospective voters with the aim of influencing their decisions in voting (Mahyudin, et al, 2022). However, the amount of money spent by village head candidates is often irrational and disproportionate to the income received by village heads during their

tenure. This can encourage village heads to engage in corruption of village funds.

The results of this study show that the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency has developed and implemented strategies to prevent village fund corruption. In formulating these strategies, the inspectorate identifies the factors causing village fund corruption. This demonstrates that there are efforts by the inspectorate to minimize these factors through preventive measures. However, the results of this study also show that there are seven factors contributing to ongoing village fund corruption in Malang Regency: pressure, opportunity, rationalization, integrity, capability, arrogance, and village head election culture. This indicates that some causative factors, such as capability, arrogance, and election culture, are not explained by the fraud square model. The continued prevalence of village fund corruption cases shows that the strategies implemented by the inspectorate have not fully minimized the root causes of the corruption.

The Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency employs two types of strategies: ex-ante control and ex-post control. According to Sirejeki (2020), both must be applied in balance to effectively prevent corruption. However, the inspectorate prioritizes ex-ante control by conducting innovations such as socialization, increasing urban coverage, utilizing technology, inspections, and consultations, and conducting periodic evaluations every budget year. On the other hand, ex-post control is very limited due to the limited authority to impose sanctions, so that it only consists of recommendations for administrative sanctions and investigative audits. The imbalance between these strategies can be the cause of the ongoing corruption of village funds in Malang Regency.

To address this problem, the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency needs to improve the execution of both ex-ante and ex-post control strategies in a balanced manner. For ex-ante control, the Inspectorate should maximize the implementation of strategy by minimizing existing obstacles and addressing factors such as opportunity and capability. Additionally, rewarding village officials who manage village funds correctly and are free from corruption allegations could motivate them to handle funds carefully and avoid corruption, thereby reducing pressure factors that might lead to misconduct.

To enhance ex-post control quality, the Inspectorate must enforce strict and professional investigative audits to create a deterrent effect for corrupt individuals. These audits should be conducted objectively to effectively deter both current and potential offenders. Furthermore, to improve prevention, the Inspectorate should promptly enhance the Siswaskeudes and Sidasi applications to detect potential mismanagement of village funds more proactively. Effective detection through these applications can support the Inspectorate in swiftly and accurately conducting investigative audits, thus maximizing the prevention of village fund corruption.

5. CONCLUSION, IMPLICATION, SUGGESTION, AND LIMITATIONS

This study aims to provide an overview and understanding of the preparation and implementation of anti-corruption strategies for village funds by the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency, as well as to analyze the factors that continue to contribute to village fund corruption cases even though various strategies have been implemented. This qualitative study uses a case study approach. The results of this study show that the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency has indeed undertaken the preparation and implementation of anti-corruption strategies for village funds in Malang Regency. Although the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency has worked hard to develop and implement strategies to prevent village fund corruption, there are still several village heads who are caught in village fund corruption cases. There are seven factors that encourage village heads to commit village fund corruption: pressure, opportunity, rationalization, integrity, capability, arrogance, and the culture in village head elections. The occurrence of village fund corruption cases in Malang Regency indicates that the strategies implemented by the Regional Inspectorate have not been entirely successful in minimizing the factors that contribute to village fund corruption. This could be attributed to the imbalance between the implementation of ex-ante control and ex-post control strategies carried out by the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency. Therefore, the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency needs to improve the implementation of village fund corruption prevention strategies by ensuring a balanced ex-ante and ex-post control approach,

there by maximizing the reduction of village fund corruption.

This study is expected to provide input for the Regional Inspectorate of Malang District regarding the implementation of village fund corruption prevention strategies so that corruption cases do not occur again in Malang Regency. Furthermore, this study is also expected to increase insight into the preparation and implementation of village fund corruption prevention strategies, especially those carried out by the Regional Inspectorate as part of APIP. Additionally, this study also provides a contribution to adding to the literature regarding the use of the fraud square model theory proposed by Saluja et al. (2021).

Given the causal factors of corruption, the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency needs to improve the implementation of strategies to prevent corruption of village funds, especially by ensuring that the implementation of ex-ante and ex-post control strategies is balanced. In implementing the ex-ante control strategy, the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency can optimize the process by minimizing existing obstacles. On the other hand, to improve the quality of the implementation of the ex-post control strategy, the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency must prevent individuals involved in corruption of village funds through strict and professional investigative audits. In addition, the village government is also required to play an active role in realizing clean, authoritative, transparent, non-discriminatory, accountable, and corruption-free village governance. To achieve this goal, the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) through the Directorate of Community Participation Development initiated the Anti-Corruption Village Program. This initiative began with the preparation of a guidebook entitled "Anti-Corruption Village Guidebook". This guidebook is intended to be a reference for village governments to optimize their role in building integrity and preventing corrupt practices in village governance. Furthermore, the Anti-Corruption Village Guidebook can be used to identify, inventory, fulfill indicators, and evaluate village governance on the way to becoming an anti-corruption village. This guidebook covers five important requirements that must be met as an Anti-Corruption Village,

such as strengthening governance, increasing supervision, improving the quality of public services, increasing community participation, and integrating local wisdom. Building upon these efforts, the Regional Inspectorate of Malang Regency, in collaboration with the Regional Office for Community Empowerment Affairs (DPMD) and the Regional Office of Communication and Information (Kominfo), took the initiative to support the KPK program by launching the sidasi application (Anti-Corruption Village Monitoring System) in 2022. With this application, it is expected that villages can be better monitored in an effort to become anti-corruption villages. By involving various stakeholders, especially regional inspectorates and village governments, it is expected that cases of village fund corruption can be minimized in the future.

During the research process, there were several limitations experienced by the researcher. First, the researcher could not access one of the important documents, namely the Annual Supervision Activity Program (PKPT), as it was classified as confidential. Additionally, the researcher also could not access the Directory of Decisions of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia related to corruption cases of village funds that had occurred in Malang Regency due to access limitations. Second, the researcher could not conduct direct interviews with the Head of the PMD Office due to the busy schedule of the respondents in carrying out their duties and time constraints during the research. Third, the researcher was only able to interview two respondents from the village government: the Village Secretary in one of the villages involved in the village fund corruption case and one member of the Village Consultative Body (BPD), resulting in insufficient information obtained from the village government. Moreover, the researcher could not interview the perpetrators of village fund corruption due to access limitations and time constraints during the research.

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