

INTISARI: Dana Desa yang diberikan pemerintah kepada desa sejak tahun 2015 semakin menambah aset desa. Terlebih dengan adanya UU Desa yang semakin menegaskan otonomi desa, maka desa dapat menentukan sendiri strategi pembangunan yang paling efektif untuk mewujudkan kehidupan masyarakat yang lebih sejahtera. Prioritas Dana Desa adalah untuk pembangunan dan pemberdayaan masyarakat. Namun diberikannya Dana Desa menjadi tantangan tersendiri bagi desa dalam pengelolaannya. Sehingga Pemerintah Pusat mengadakan rekrutmen Pendamping Desa yang bertugas untuk mendampingi desa agar Dana Desa dapat dimanfaatkan secara optimal. Namun pada tahun 2018 Menteri Desa, PDT dan Transmigrasi telah memberhentikan sekitar 800 sampai 1.200 pendamping desa yang tidak baik. Di berbagai daerah, banyak warga yang juga menuai kritikan mengenai kinerja Pendamping Desa, sehingga berdampak pada pemanfaatan Dana Desa yang tidak optimal. Ketidakefektifan pemanfaatan Dana Desa salah satunya terjadi di Kecamatan Gandrungmangu, Kabupaten Cilacap, Jawa Tengah, yakni ditunjukkan dengan realisasi pembangunan dan pemberdayaan masyarakat yang belum optimal. Mengingat Pendamping Desa memiliki peran penting dalam menentukan keberhasilan pengelolaan Dana Desa, maka penelitian ini menjawab bagaimana efektivitas peran Pendamping Desa di Kecamatan Gandrungmangu, serta faktor pendorong dan penghambatnya. Teori yang digunakan adalah teori evaluasi secara *top down*, karena indikator *output* yang digunakan adalah indikator *output* yang telah ditetapkan oleh Kementerian Desa, Pembangunan Daerah Tertinggal, dan Transmigrasi. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi kasus. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa secara umum peran Pendamping Desa di Kecamatan Gandrungmangu sudah efektif, namun pelaksanaan tugas yang berkaitan dengan program prioritas Dana Desa, yakni pendampingan pada pembangunan dan pemberdayaan masyarakat desa belum efektif. Oleh karena itu, Dana Desa belum memberikan manfaat yang signifikan bagi masyarakat.

Kata kunci : evaluasi, dana desa, pendamping desa, pembangunan desa, pemberdayaan masyarakat desa.

ABSTRACT: Village funds given by the government to villages since 2015 have increasingly added village assets. Especially with the existence of the Village Law which increasingly emphasizes village autonomy, the village can determine itself the most effective development strategy to realize the lives of a more prosperous society. The priority of the Village Fund is for development and community empowerment. But the provision of Village Fund is a challenge for the village in its management. So that the Central Government recruits Village Facilitators whose duty is to assist the village so that the Village Fund can be utilized optimally. But in 2018 the Ministry of Village, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration had dismissed around 800 to 1.200 village assistants who were not good. In various regions, many residents also criticize about the Village Facilitator's performance, which had an impact on the utilization of Village Funds that were not optimal. One of the uses of the Village Fund that is not optimal is in Gandrungmangu District, Cilacap Regency, Central Java, which is indicated by the realization of development and community empowerment that has not been optimal. Since Village Facilitators have an important role in determining the success of Village Fund management, this study answers how effective the role of Village Facilitators is in the District of Gandrungmangu, as well as its driving and inhibiting factors. The theory used is the top down evaluation theory, because the output indicators used are output indicators set by the Ministry of Village, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration. This study uses qualitative methods with a case study approach. The result shows that in general the role of Village Facilitators in Gandrungmangu District was effective, but the implementation of tasks related to the Village Fund priority program, namely assistance to development and rural communities empowerment was not yet effective. Therefore, the Village Fund has not provided significant benefits to the community.

Keywords : evaluation, village funds, village facilitators, village development, empowerment of rural communities.