

# Anti-Corruption Education: A Bottom-Up Approach in Purworejo Regency, Indonesia

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## Anti-Corruption Education: A Bottom-Up Approach in Purworejo Regency, Indonesia

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### Abstract

Many government and non-governmental entities have already introduced community outreach to prevent corrupt practices by raising public awareness and encouragement in recent years. The issue would be that the anti-corruption consultation could empower society to stop corruption. The primary aim of such counseling would be to create a better understanding and conformance to village officers concerning types of corruption, the dangers of corruption, the law, the risks associated with crime, and alternative prevention. The method used in this outreach is a participatory method that includes lectures, discussions, and questions and answers. I aim this community outreach at 343 Village Heads in Purworejo Regency, Central Java, Indonesia for the 2019-2024 term of service. This program facilitates participants about anti-corruption measures. Despite some challenges that village heads face in managing village funds, these outreach efforts have significantly affected promoting anti-corruption efforts in Purworejo Regency. An effective anti-corruption intervention that involves village officials is a step toward developing anti-corruption understanding at the village level and transforming it into an Anti-Corruption Village. As a result, the village head must be one of the anti-corruption components, laying the groundwork for a more robust National Integrity System.

### Keywords

anti-corruption; fund for village; societal development



### I. Introduction

Communities have already been empowered by the Indonesian government's allocation of finances in recent times. Therefore, the Village Head's role in managing village funds is critical to community empowerment and village development. The village funds allocated to Purworejo Regency, Central Java Province, Indonesia for the last five years (Fiscal Year 2017 to 2021) since the central government programmed it showed village funds in table 1.

**Table 1.** Village Fund for Purworejo Regency for 2017-2021

Year	Total Fund (In Thousand IDR)
2017	355.968.664
2018	325.602.817
2019	369.061.708
2020	369.061.708
2021	363.993.225

Source: Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>

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The role of the Village Head has attracted a lot of attention. The role of the village head in channeling village funds for community empowerment is critical in advancing rural communities' economies (Wahyudi, Surya & Linggi, 2019; Zakarya, 2020; Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture, 2020; Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, 2021). This program promotes human development, equality in rural and urban development, rural community welfare and quality of life, and village independence (Arina, Masinambow & Walewangko, 2021; Dwafafaiz, 2021; Pitono & Kartiwi, 2021; Cahyono, 2021). Similarly, the Republic of Indonesia's Ministry of Villages, Development of Remote Regions, and Transmigration (2021) stated that it was critical to building a just village and an anti-corruption village. This is because of the failure of the state's national anti-corruption commitment (Indonesian International Transparency, 2021). Purworejo Regency villages are no exception with anti-corruption village apparatus-based efforts in fighting corruption for village development. Development is a systematic and continuous effort made to realize something that is aspired (Shah *et al.*, 2020).

The engagement of the Village Head, as the lowest level of government apparatus, in preventing corruption is a phenomenon that can be found in Purworejo Regency or other villages in Indonesia and around the world. As a result, the international anti-corruption project has made community leadership against corruption one of the anti-corruption agendas for 2021-2030. (Transparency International, 2021). Transparency International, for example, has launched a "Time to Wakeup" campaign in seventeen countries across Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe (Transparency International (2021a). For example, to combat corruption, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) have been established in Bangladesh, the Association of Nigerians Against Corruption (ANAC) in Nigeria, Justice Now in Guatemala, and Citizens Broom in Burkina Faso (Sakib, 2020; Oluyitan; 2015; United States Institute of Peace, 2017). Villages in Purworejo Regency, particularly in using village funds to strengthen anti-corruption villages (Desa Anti-Korupsi).

Understanding and challenges in becoming an Anti-Corruption Village has several connotations. According to the Republic of Indonesia's Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration (2021), Anti-Corruption Villages must be based on village needs, not the will of village officials, and implemented through SDGs or village databases. The goal of collecting needs data is to do something beneficial for the residents of a village. As the government organization closest to the villagers, the rural apparatus is the driving force behind the village community's development and empowerment. Organization must have a goal to be achieved by the organizational members (Niati *et al.*, 2021). The success of leadership is partly determined by the ability of leaders to develop their organizational culture. (Arif, 2019).

According to the Village Culture Congress (2020), the village must have good financial governance as a development object. Because the goal of Anti-Corruption Villages is to speed up the achievement of development goals to realize a good and clean government, Anti-Corruption Villages rely heavily on village officials (Laraspati, 2021). However, challenges such as village officials' lack of understanding of financial governance, an absence of resources, a lack of knowledge of corruption, and laws and regulations are only half the solution to eradicating corruption (Republika, 2015; Tingginehe, Andreas & Marwata, 2021; Supervisory Agency Finance and Development, 2015; Lasmadi & Sudarti, 2019; Carr, 2007).

As a result, anti-corruption counseling to prevent corrupt practices must be based on a broad understanding of corruption. We intend counseling that emphasizes moral

compliance and moral independence and financial governance and transparency of village funds to include Purworejo Regency village officials as participants.

## II. Review of Literature

### 2.1 Bottom-Up Anti Corruption Approach

Because of a lack of supervision from the Central Government and a lack of community involvement, assistance programs directly provided by the Central Government are considered less effective and cause many corruption cases (Murwito et al., 2012). As a result, these efforts frequently fail, particularly in developing countries. However, little scientific attention has been paid to this failure to combat corruption. Similarly, little attention has been devoted to alternative anti-corruption approaches (Secretariat Cabinet of the Republic of Indonesia, 2021). Few organizations have responded to anti-corruption efforts from the bottom up. Faeni et al. (2021), for example, emphasize that anti-corruption counseling based on integrity values can suppress corruption besides preventive measures. It is also necessary to improve the essential behavior, norms, and standards to sustain anti-corruption efforts (The World Bank, 2021). It is essential to foster an environment of integrity and zero tolerance for corruption and refuse to participate in corrupt practices (UNODC, 2020). However, it could not eradicate corruption instead of using the most effective eradication method. Therefore, this outreach initiative encourages village officials through value counseling and educates them on the risks, consequences, and prevention methods.

According to Dungan, Waytz, and Young (2014), corruption is a moral sale, so moral development is required to prevent corruption. Moral (motivation) must be developed through counseling for both rulers (including village officials) and individuals to improve morality. Various arguments, such as the use of a bottom-up approach, significantly impact public attitudes toward corruption and efforts to prevent corruption (Sakib, 2020). However, the claim is conditional on two components: 1) public trust in anti-corruption efforts and 2) social consensus on the need for value change. Because this condition may not exist in other countries, anti-corruption education must achieve positive results from a bottom-up approach to corruption prevention.

### 2.2 Outreach Impact

The outcomes of this outreach activity are increasing village heads' knowledge and understanding of preventing corruption, particularly corruption in using village funds so that the target is suitable for the welfare and economic development of rural communities. Then, village officials who understand the effects of preventing corruption and are committed to eradicating corruption become grassroots agents of change who can play a role in society. The village head can be the catalyst for eradicating corruption at the grassroots level in order to establish an Anti-Corruption Village and become a part of the National Integrity System.

## III. Research Method

Carrying out community outreach begins with initial stages, including an invitation to provide legal counseling from the Regional Management Board of the Community Movement to Fight Corruption (GMPK) Purworejo Regency. Then, prepare the materials that will be distributed to legal counseling participants. Finally, the presenters begin their preparations with a literature review on raising public awareness of anti-corruption efforts,



a field that is still common among participants. In the Plenary Room of the Regional House of Representatives (DPRD) Purworejo Regency, legal counseling with "anti-corruption culture" was held.

This anti-corruption counseling activity targeted 343 village heads throughout Purworejo Regency, as well as several regional officials such as the Purworejo Regent, Chair of the Purworejo's People of Representative Assembly (DPRD), Purworejo Police Chief, Chief Prosecutor of Purworejo, Chair of the Purworejo District Court, and Village Community Empowerment Service representatives. The method used to carry out this counseling is two (2) sessions of lectures. Inspector General Pol. Bibit Samad Rianto and Dr. Manotar Tampubolon attended the first session. The second session included a discussion as well as questions and answers.

We adopted this method since and could provide a more in-depth understanding and knowledge of corrupt practices and superficial accountability in village funds' availability. The speaker explained the legal aspects of corruption and the consequences of misusing village funds for personal gain and anti-corruption theory. During the talk of such substance, the main focus was on preventive action (methods of instilling values and norms so that these norms and values are embedded in participants). The optimism is that participants were able to put it into practice in their duties and functions, allowing villages in Purworejo Regency to become Anti-Corruption Villages.

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#### IV. Results and Discussion

Based on the results of the legal counseling carried out, there were several outputs, including:

- a. Participants receive anti-corruption education emphasizing preemptive (instilling norms and values into participants) related to corrupt behavior that violates law, morals, and religion. Participants understand corruption, the act of taking and enjoying rights that do not belong to them (community rights). Corruption is an act that violates the law and is immoral and violates religious law. To explain it, the presenter understands self-reliance and moral resilience as the most effective tools in avoiding corrupt behavior. It described participants how to become human beings who have independence and moral strength by using philosophy and the existence of rights.
- b. Participants are also allotted a comprehension of the community's function and role in the state, as it relates to the community's right to know the allocation of village funds and transparency. The participants were then taught about the long-term consequences of corruption, particularly the corruption of village funds, which would result in the village not developing or becoming an underdeveloped village with people who find it difficult to enjoy development.
- c. It contributed participant techniques in using village funds and the obligation to submit reports and solicit feedback from the community before allocating funds.

It is carried out through programmed legal counseling to increase participants' legal awareness and compliance. Anti-corruption counseling aims to make the community, particularly village leaders, aware of and understand corruption laws and regulations. In addition, anti-corruption counseling explains the theories, consequences, and models of eradicating corruption to be helpful to participants in Purworejo Regency, Central Java Province, based on the needs and problems of village funds.

## V. Conclusion

Community service through anti-corruption counseling for 343 Village Heads in Purworejo Regency has provided a clear indication of the role played by village heads and other forms of direct community involvement in combating corruption of village funds in Purworejo Regency, as well as what can be done to ensure that village funds are appropriately allocated. A more robust framework for village leaders appears to be required to allocate village funds for both the development and empowerment of communities. As a result, during the extension, the roles and responsibilities of the village head are also suggested. As an alternative to preventing corruption in village funds, this is required.

The village chief should be honest and open about village's finances. Simultaneously, village communities must reject the ambiguous 'dual role' approach to village fund corruption, which they oppose in principle but practice. From a policy standpoint, one of the driving factors is that the community (grassroots) plays an important role in preventing corruption in village funds in Purworejo Regency. The village chief also established communication channels between the use of village funds and the village residents. This facility should support the village head's efforts to strengthen the Anti-Corruption Village Program. Although this outreach provided participants with a thorough understanding of corruption to prevent corruption in Purworejo district village funds, it appears to be a promising way of addressing the latent problem of corruption today.

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