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Implementation Of Village Government Authority In Fulfilling The Rights Of Disaster Victims At The Village Level

Achmad Robi Afrilihadi ^{a1*}, Mohammad Maiwan ^{a2}, Sanusi ^{a3}

a Jakarta State University, Indonesia

achmad.robi@mhs.unj.ac.id ^{a1*} al*corresponding author

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the implementation of the authority of the village government in fulfilling the rights of disaster victims at the village level. The research problem focuses on how this authority is exercised in practice, how citizens' rights are fulfilled, and the obstacles faced by village governments in disaster situations. The research uses a descriptive method with a qualitative approach. Data collection was carried out through in-depth interviews, field observations, and documentation using triangulation techniques. The subjects of the study include village government officials and residents affected by the disaster. The results of the study show that the authority of the village government in handling disasters is still dominated by emergency response and the implementation of administrative tasks. The village government plays an important role as the closest actor to the residents, but the authority exercised is limited and highly dependent on coordination with the local government. The fulfillment of the rights of disaster victims is more realized in the form of short-term material assistance, while the fulfillment of rights in the dimension of sustainable social protection has not been optimal. The main obstacles faced by village governments include limited institutional capacity, resources, inter-agency coordination, and a top-down policy approach. These findings confirm that disaster management at the village level is an important space for the practice of regional autonomy and citizenship.

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Introduction

Disasters are social events that have far-reaching consequences on the lives of citizens, especially related to the fulfillment of basic rights and social protection. In this situation, the state is required to be present not only through emergency assistance, but also through policies that are able to ensure the safety, sustainability of life, and the recovery of the social conditions of the affected communities (Zulaeha et al., 2022). The presence of the state in the context of a disaster reflects the constitutional responsibility to the citizen, the implementation of which takes place through various levels of government in accordance with the principle of decentralization.

In a government system that adheres to regional autonomy, the responsibility for disaster management is not centralized to the central government, but is distributed to local governments according to its authority. Indonesia's disaster management legal framework places local governments as important actors in the entire disaster management cycle, from mitigation to post-disaster recovery. This role becomes increasingly significant at the village government level because the village has structural and social proximity to the affected residents, although the effectiveness of its implementation is highly dependent on institutional support and cross-governmental coordination as affirmed in the study of regional authority (Zulaeha et al., 2022).

Local government authority in disaster management includes responsibility to ensure the fulfillment of the rights of affected residents, protect communities from further risks, and integrate disaster risk reduction into regional development planning. In practice, the exercise of this authority is an important indicator to assess the extent to which the principle of regional autonomy is carried out substantively and in favor of the interests of citizens. Various studies show that although authority has been normatively regulated, its implementation at the local level still faces challenges stemming from institutional capacity, resource limitations, and the complexity of inter-agency coordination (Ndaumanu, 2020).

The fulfillment of citizens' rights in disaster situations is an integral part of the concept of the welfare state and the protection of human rights. Local governments as an extension of the state at the local level play a strategic role in ensuring that citizens' rights to protection, basic services, and restoration of life can be realized in policy practice. However, a number of studies have revealed that there is a gap between the normative recognition of citizens' rights and the reality of implementation on the ground, especially in rural areas that have experienced social and spatial changes due to the development of residential areas (Gunawan, 2014).

Previous research has generally placed disaster management within the framework of public policy and local government authority with an emphasis on regulatory aspects and institutional coordination. This approach provides a normative picture of the division of authority between levels of government, but it is still relatively limited in examining the practice of village government authority as a space for direct interaction between the state and residents in crisis situations (Gunawan, 2014). These limitations show an important research gap, especially in understanding how the authority of village governments is exercised in fulfilling the rights of disaster victims as part of civic practices at the local level, as well as in the study of autonomy and public services.

Based on this frame of thought, this study aims to analyze the implementation of the authority of the village government in fulfilling the rights of disaster victims. This research places the village as an important locus of the practice of regional autonomy and citizenship, by examining how village authority is exercised, how citizens' rights are fulfilled, and how the obstacles faced by village governments in disaster situations (Zulaeha et al., 2022). The analysis of this research is based on the concept of decentralization, the authority of local and village governments, and the fulfillment of citizens' rights in the perspective of Pancasila and

Citizenship Education which views disasters as a real context of state-citizen relations.

Methods

This study uses a descriptive research design with a qualitative approach that aims to understand the practice of village government authority in fulfilling the rights of disaster victims in depth and contextual. The qualitative approach was chosen because the research was not directed to measure the relationship between variables, but to capture the meaning, process, and dynamics of the implementation of village authority in disaster situations as it takes place in a natural context. Qualitative research allows researchers to interpret social phenomena in their entirety through direct interaction with the research subjects as well as to understand reality from the perspective of the actors involved (Scott, 2020).

The research was carried out on one village that experienced a disaster event and had an active village government structure. Researchers are present directly in the field as the main research instrument to conduct observations, interviews, and data interpretation. The research subjects were determined using purposive sampling techniques with consideration of the involvement and understanding of the informants to the research problem. Informants include village government officials who have authority in handling disasters and villagers who are directly affected by disaster events. The presence of researchers and the selection of informants purposively allows for the acquisition of rich and relevant data to the research focus (Salim & Syahrum, 2012).

Data collection was carried out through in-depth interviews, field observations, and documentation that was used triangulatively to improve the validity of the data. Interviews were used to explore the experience and understanding of informants related to the implementation of village government authority, observations were made to capture empirical practices and social conditions in the field, while documentation was used to complete data in the form of archives, policies, and records of village activities. Data analysis is carried out inducively with the stages of data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing which takes place continuously during the research process. The validity of the data is maintained through triangulation of sources and techniques as well as the persistence of researchers in the process of collecting and analyzing data (Scott, 2020).

Results And Discussion

This research was conducted to describe the implementation of the authority of the village government in disaster management and its implications for the fulfillment of the rights of disaster victims. The problems studied include how the authority is exercised by the village government in disaster management practices and the factors that affect its implementation. The results of this study provide an overview of the role of the village government as the government actor closest to the residents in dealing with disaster situations.

Based on the analysis of the research findings, the implementation of the authority of the village government in disaster management shows a pattern that still focuses on emergency response and the implementation of administrative tasks. Village authority is carried out within the boundaries of coordination with local governments and related institutions, so that the role of the village is more prominent as a policy implementer than as a decision-maker. This condition shows the limitations of the village's substantive authority in handling disasters, which then affects the effectiveness of protecting and fulfilling the rights of disaster victims.

Implementation of Village Government Authority in Disaster Management

The implementation of the authority of the village government in disaster management in practice is marked by initial actions that are quick and based on social closeness with residents (Latifaturrohmah & Junarto, 2023). The results of field observations showed that the village government was the first party to collect data on victims and environmental conditions after the disaster occurred. Data collection is carried out manually through RT and RW devices because there is no standard disaster recording system available at the village level. This situation shows that village authority is more exercised through direct operational actions than formal administrative mechanisms, as also found in studies on the role of villages in disaster management.

The implementation of this authority is strengthened by the statement of the village head which states that

"There is no special procedure that can be carried out immediately when a disaster occurs, the important thing at that time is to record residents and ensure that nothing is neglected".

This statement shows that village authority is carried out situationally and is highly dependent on the initiative of village officials. Within the framework of regional autonomy, this condition reflects that the authority of the village is still within the limits of policy implementation, not the authority of strategic decision-making, as explained in the study of the authority of local governments in disaster management (Lithuania, 2024).

The results of interviews with village officials also revealed that coordination with local governments is a determining factor in the implementation of village authority. A village official said that

"For major assistance and the use of the budget, the village is still waiting for directions from the district, we cannot decide on our own".

These findings show that village authority is limited and highly dependent on vertical coordination structures. This condition is in line with research on village government and social services which shows that villages often act as a liaison between residents and the supravillage government, rather than as autonomous policy actors (Zulaeha et al., 2023).

The implementation of the authority of the village government in disaster management also appears to be more dominant in the emergency response phase than in the mitigation and preparedness phase. (Maulana et al., 2024). Based on observations, no disaster mitigation planning documents were found that were integrated in the village development plan. Village officials explained that the focus of development is still directed to infrastructure needs and other basic services. This condition shows that disaster management is understood as an incidental event, not a risk that needs to be managed sustainably, as also highlighted in research on the role of villages in natural disaster management.

The aspect of public policy also affects the space for the village government to exercise its authority. In field practice, administrative procedures and bureaucratic mechanisms often limit villages to act more flexibly according to local conditions. Village officials revealed that

"We have to wait for the certainty of the procedure so that we do not take the wrong step, even though residents already need immediate assistance".

This statement reflects the gap between field needs and policy design, as stated in the study on the implementation of disaster management policies in the regions (Rahim et al., 2023).

Vertical coordination with local governments and technical institutions is also a challenge in the implementation of village authority. Based on the experience of village officials, communication during emergencies often takes place asynchronously, especially in determining the priority of assistance and the division of roles. The situation shows that village authority is carried out in a coordination system that is not fully effective, in line with the findings of research on the importance of synergy between levels of government in disaster

management (Lase, 2022). In a normative framework, Law Number 24 of 2007 provides legitimacy for the involvement of local governments in disaster management (Yulianti & Wadi, 2025). However, the results of interviews and observations show that the implementation of the policy at the village level still faces gaps, especially in the collection of victim data and the distribution of aid. This gap has a direct impact on the effectiveness of the implementation of village authority and strengthens research findings on the implementation of disaster policies that are not fully adaptive to local conditions.

Overall, the implementation of village government authority in disaster management shows that villages play a strategic role in situations of limited substantive authority and institutional support. The village is present as the representation of the state that is closest to the citizens, but the authority exercised is more responsive and situational (Saliha & Pakki, 2021). These findings reinforce the view that strengthening village authority needs to be directed at capacity building, role clarity, and systemic support so that these authorities are truly meaningful for citizen protection.

Fulfillment of the Rights of Disaster Victims by the Village Government

The fulfillment of the rights of disaster victims by the village government is in practice understood as an effort to ensure that the basic needs of residents can be met in emergency conditions (Prastyowati, 2013). The results of field observations show that the earliest form of fulfilling rights is the distribution of logistical assistance in the form of food, clothing needs, and temporary housing facilities. Village officials prioritize residents who suffer the most severe damage to their homes and vulnerable groups such as the elderly and children. This pattern shows that the fulfillment of citizens' rights is interpreted more as the fulfillment of urgent needs than as the fulfillment of rights in a broader sense.

This understanding is strengthened by the statement of the village head who stated that "The most important thing after a disaster is that residents can eat and have shelter first, about other rights to follow".

This statement shows that the fulfillment of citizens' rights is carried out gradually and situationally according to the capacity of the village. In the research on meeting the needs of disaster victims, it was explained that orientation to basic needs is indeed a common pattern in disaster management at the local level, although this approach risks ignoring the aspect of distribution justice if it is not accompanied by adequate needs mapping (Bahri, 2022).

The results of interviews with affected residents show that the fulfillment of rights is not always felt equally. A resident said that

"Assistance is available, but not all residents get it at the same time".

These findings show that there is a gap in the distribution of aid that has an impact on citizens' perception of the justice of the fulfillment of rights. In a study on social services for disaster victims, it was emphasized that delays and inaccuracy in aid targets can reduce citizens' trust in the government, even though formally citizens' rights have been sought to be fulfilled (Prastyowati, 2013).

The fulfillment of the rights of disaster victims is also related to the right to social services and sustainable protection (Prakoso et al., 2024). Based on observations, follow-up services such as social assistance and economic recovery have not become the top priority of the village government after the emergency response phase has passed. Village officials explained that budget and authority limitations make the village more focused on initial handling. This condition is in line with research on the fulfillment of citizens' rights in the context of village development which shows that the limited capacity of the village government often causes the fulfillment of citizens' rights to stop at a minimal stage.

Information and communication aspects also affect citizens' experience in fulfilling post-disaster rights (Miskiah et al., 2024). Studies on public communication show that unclear

information about the type of aid, the timing of distribution, and the criteria for recipients can lead to misunderstandings at the community level. The results of observations showed that some residents did not receive the same information regarding the assistance mechanism, thus giving rise to the perception of injustice even though the assistance had been distributed by the village government.

The fulfillment of the rights of disaster victims also involves actors outside the village government, such as private institutions and the community. In practice, the help that comes from various parties is not always well coordinated. Village officials revealed that

"Sometimes aid comes directly to residents without going through the village, so it is difficult to regulate equity".

These findings show that the role of village governments as the controller of aid distribution still faces challenges, as also revealed in research on government and non-government collaboration in meeting the needs of disaster victims (Bahri, 2022).

Overall, the fulfillment of the rights of disaster victims by the village government shows that the rights of residents are more fulfilled in the form of short-term material assistance. The fulfillment of rights in the sustainable and participatory dimension of social protection still faces various structural and institutional limitations (Sari et al., 2020). This finding confirms that the fulfillment of the rights of disaster victims requires strengthening the role of the village government not only as a distribution of aid, but also as a social service manager who is able to ensure justice and sustainability in the fulfillment of citizens' rights.

Obstacles of the Village Government in Exercising Authority

The main obstacle faced by the village government in exercising disaster management authority is related to the limited institutional capacity and resources of the village apparatus (Awusi et al., 2018). The results of observations show that most of the village apparatus does not have experience or special training related to disasters, so the response carried out is more intuitive and situational. Village officials admit that knowledge about disaster procedures is still obtained informally through field experience. A village official said that

"We work on previous experience, not because there are clear technical guidelines". This condition shows that village authority is carried out in a space of limited technical capacity, as also found in the study of the performance of regional institutions in disaster management.

Limited resources are the next obstacle that affects the effectiveness of the implementation of village authority. Based on the results of the interviews, the village government faces budget constraints that have a direct impact on the ability to provide logistics, supporting facilities, and follow-up services for affected residents. The village head mentioned that

"The village budget is not designed for a major disaster, so we can only move as far as we can".

These findings show that although authority has been delegated to villages through the principle of regional autonomy, the accompanying resource support is inadequate, as also confirmed in the study on resource limitations in disaster management at the local level (Anjari et al., 2023).

The aspect of coordination between institutions is also a significant obstacle in carrying out the authority of the village government. The results of observations show that coordination between villages, local governments, and disaster technical institutions often takes place in a partial and unstructured manner. The village officials explained that

"Sometimes we have moved, but help from above comes with different data".

This situation leads to overlapping aid and confusion at the community level. Research on institutional relations in disaster management shows that weak vertical and horizontal coordination has an impact on the low effectiveness of policies at the local level, a condition

that is also reflected in practices in villages (Wilade et al., 2019).

The approach to disaster management policies, which is still dominant, is top-down, and also limits the discretion of the village government (Habibullah, 2013). In practice, villages often only act as implementers of policies that have been formulated at the top level without having enough space to adapt policies to the social and cultural conditions of the local community. This is confirmed by the statement of the village officials who stated that "we must follow the existing policy flow even though the conditions on the ground are different". These findings are in line with a study of community-based disaster management policies that emphasize that a less participatory approach can weaken the role of villages as a key actor in disaster risk reduction.

Another obstacle that arises is related to the position of the village government in the hierarchical authority structure. Based on interviews, villages are often in a position to wait for decisions from local governments regarding the use of the budget and the determination of follow-up measures after disasters. A village official said that

"We cannot go far until there is certainty from the district".

This condition shows that village authority is still limited substantively and highly dependent on the legitimacy of the level of government above it, as also highlighted in research on authority relations between local government levels (Prasetyoningsih & Ichsan, 2024).

These various obstacles show that the implementation of the authority of the village government in disaster management is in a complex structural situation. Villages are required to be present quickly and responsively in the community, but at the same time are limited by institutional capacity, resources, coordination patterns, and policy designs that are not yet fully supportive. These findings show that strengthening village authority cannot be understood solely as an addition of duties or responsibilities, but requires systemic improvement that includes strengthening the capacity of the apparatus, simplifying coordination, and recognizing villages as subjects of autonomy that have a strategic role in protecting citizens in crisis situations (Habibullah, 2013).

Conclusion

This study shows that the authority of the village government in disaster management is carried out in a limited autonomy space and is greatly influenced by the coordination structure with the supravillage government. The village government plays an important role as the closest actor to the residents in disaster situations, especially in the emergency response phase, but the implementation of this authority is more administrative and reactive. These findings confirm that village autonomy in the field of disasters has not fully developed as a substantive authority that allows villages to play an active role in disaster mitigation and preparedness in a sustainable manner.

The fulfillment of the rights of disaster victims by the village government shows that there is a gap between the normative recognition of citizens' rights and implementation practices at the local level. Citizens' rights are generally fulfilled through material assistance and basic services, but their fulfillment has not always been based on systematic need mapping and the principle of justice. This condition shows that the fulfillment of citizens' rights in disaster situations does not only depend on the availability of assistance, but also on the capacity of the village government to manage information, coordination, and social services in a contextual and participatory manner.

The main obstacles faced by village governments in exercising their authority include limited institutional capacity, human resources, and budget support, as well as weak interagency coordination and policy approaches that are still dominant top-down. These obstacles

limit the space for village movement to develop its authority independently and responsive to the needs of residents. These findings indicate that strengthening the authority of village governments in disaster management needs to be understood not only as a regulatory issue, but also as an effort to build capacity, legitimacy, and more equal civic relations between the state and citizens at the local level.

Overall, this study confirms that disaster management at the village level is an important space for the practice of regional autonomy and citizenship. Villages do not simply function as policy implementers, but as an arena where the presence of the state is tested through the ability of the village government to protect and fulfill the rights of citizens in crisis situations. These findings enrich the study of Pancasila and Citizenship Education by placing disasters as a real context of state-citizen relations in local government practice.

Suggestions

Based on the findings of the study, strengthening the authority of the village government in disaster management needs to be directed at increasing institutional capacity and the quality of cross-government coordination. Local governments and related agencies need to provide more systematic support to villages through disaster training, technical assistance, and simplification of coordination mechanisms and aid distribution. These efforts are important so that village authority does not stop at administrative implementation, but develops into substantive authority that allows the village to respond to the needs of residents quickly, fairly, and contextually.

In terms of scientific development, the findings of this study show the need to expand the study of village autonomy which not only focuses on the regulatory aspect, but also on the civic dimension in crisis situations. The study of Pancasila and Citizenship Education can develop a theoretical framework that views disasters as a space of practice between state and citizen relations, where the authority of the village government and the fulfillment of citizens' rights are intertwined. This approach has the potential to enrich the understanding of regional autonomy as a social and political practice, rather than simply a formal division of authority.

Further research is suggested to examine disaster management at the village level with a comparative approach between regions or with a focus on the form of citizen participation in the fulfillment of post-disaster rights. Longitudinal studies are also needed to see the dynamics of village authority from the emergency response phase to long-term recovery. Thus, further research can provide a more complete picture of the sustainability of village autonomy practices and their implications for strengthening citizenship at the local level.

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