

## Factors Affecting the Performance of Village Government and Its Implications on Village Community Trust (Study in Villages in Batang Hari Regency)

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the influence of accountability, transparency, and budget participation on village community trust through village government performance as an intervening variable. This research was conducted using a survey method by distributing questionnaires to the Village Consultative Body (BPD) in Batang Hari Regency. The sampling technique used was saturated/census sampling, which included all villages in Batang Hari Regency, totaling 110 villages. Data analysis was conducted using the Partial Least Square (PLS) approach. The research results show that directly, accountability, transparency, and budget participation influence the performance of village government, transparency, budget participation, and village government performance influence the trust of the village community, but accountability does not influence the trust of the village community. The research results indirectly show that accountability, transparency, and budget participation influence the trust of the village community through the performance of the village government as a mediator. The results of this research provide important practical implications for village governments to improve their performance.

### INTRODUCTION

The implementation of good governance is a fundamental need at all levels of government, including at the village level, to realize transparency, accountability, and performance improvement (Aminudin, 2019; Handayani et al., 2023; Salam, 2023). Village governments that build trust with the community tend to be more successful in encouraging village participation and development. However, the implementation of good governance at the village level has not been fully effective, as shown by the still high rate of deviations and low realization of the development budget. One of the root problems faced is weak accountability and lack of public participation, which is exacerbated by limited access to information and supervision. In the global context, developed countries show that accountability and public participation are the main factors in building public trust in the government.

In Indonesia, although the public trust index in general is increasing, the problem of corruption at the village level is still in the main spotlight. Transparency International and ICW note that the village sector consistently ranks highest in the corruption cases handled. One example occurred in Jambi Province, including Batang Hari Regency, which recorded several cases of misuse of village funds by village heads or their devices. The amount of village funds allocated by the central government, if not managed with the principles of transparency, participation, and accountability, is

very vulnerable to abuse. This condition demands an improvement in the quality of village governance and supervision, including optimizing the role of BPD and increasing the literacy of village communities related to their rights and obligations in village development.

Accountability is a fundamental principle in good governance and is an important factor in encouraging village government performance. With accountability, the village government can show accountability for budget management and program implementation to the community, so that the public has a basis to conduct evaluations. Several studies have stated that accountability has a positive effect on village government performance, but there are also research results that show different results depending on the regional context. In addition, transparency is also an important factor that strengthens public trust, both directly and through improving government performance.

Community participation in village budgeting is a determinant of the success of development. Unfortunately, this participation is still low and often formal, not involving the community in real terms in the decision-making process. In fact, various studies have shown that budget participation contributes to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of village government performance. However, participation alone does not guarantee accountability if it is not accompanied by transparency and commitment from village officials. Therefore, community involvement needs to be strengthened through public education and information disclosure.

The performance of the village government is an important mediator in building public trust, especially in the relationship between transparency and accountability and the level of public trust. Research shows that when communities see village governments working effectively and accountably, trust will grow, and will ultimately encourage greater participation. The Batang Hari Regency Government, despite having shown achievements through the achievement of IDM and MCP scores from the KPK, still faces challenges in preventing corruption at the village level. This shows that administrative achievements do not necessarily reflect real conditions on the ground, and need continuous evaluation and strengthening of village government capacity.

Based on these problems, this study refers to the findings of Husni et al. (2023) by expanding the model through the addition of accountability and budget participation variables. This research also fills the gap in previous research that is still limited in the context of village government, especially in rural areas of Indonesia. Through a stakeholder theory approach, this study aims to comprehensively examine the factors that affect the performance of village governments and their impact on community trust. Therefore, the focus of the research is directed to empirical studies in all villages in Batang Hari Regency to provide policy recommendations in strengthening village governance based on transparency, accountability, and participation.

The formulation of the problem in this study includes ten main questions that focus on the relationship between accountability, transparency, and budget participation on village government performance and village community trust in Batanghari Regency, either directly or through the mediation of village government performance. The purpose of this study is to empirically examine the influence of the three independent variables on the two dependent variables, as well as identify the role of village government performance as a mediating variable. The benefits of this research are intended for various parties, including: (1) for researchers, to increase insight and understanding related to public sector accounting literature; (2) for the village government, as an input to improve

performance to strengthen community trust; (3) for the village community, as an educational means to assess and monitor the performance of their government; and (4) for academics, as an additional reference in the development of knowledge in the field of public sector accounting, especially related to the performance and accountability of village government.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The object of research is everything that is the focus of the study in a study, both individuals, objects, or activities that have certain characteristics and have been determined by the researcher to be analyzed and drawn conclusions (Sekaran, 2017). In this study, the objects studied include five main variables, namely accountability, transparency, budget participation, village government performance, and village community trust. Meanwhile, the subject of the study is the Village Consultative Body (BPD) in Batang Hari Regency, which is considered to have a strategic role in observing and assessing the performance of the village government and being a representative of the village community.

This study uses a quantitative approach with a correlational method, which is a study that aims to test and explain the relationship between several research variables (Sekaran, 2017). This approach is used because some variables in the research, such as community trust or village government performance, are latent variables or cannot be measured directly, so indicators are needed to measure them (Solimun et al., 2017). The data obtained will later be statistically analyzed to test the influence between variables, especially how accountability, transparency, and budget participation contribute to village government performance and community trust levels. This research is based on a correlational design that functions to find and test the relationship between variables based on existing theories, with operational constructs in the form of accountability (AK), transparency (TR), budget participation (PA), village government performance (KPD), and village community trust (KM).

Variables are characteristics, properties, or attributes of an object or research subject that is directly related to the problem to be researched. Variables have varying values between research objects and can be measured, either directly or indirectly. Based on the method of measurement, variables are divided into two, namely manifest (observable) variables that can be measured directly, and latent variables (unobservable) that cannot be measured directly but are estimated through their constituent indicators (Solimun et al., 2017). The population in this study refers to all villages in Batang Hari Regency which totals 110 villages and is spread across 8 sub-districts, as explained by Sekaran (2017) that population is the entire group of people, events, or things that are the focus of the researcher and from which samples are taken for analysis purposes.

The sample in this study is all villages in Batang Hari Regency, which totals 110 villages. This study uses a saturated sample technique, which is a sample selection method in which all members of the population are used as research samples (Santoso & Madiistriyatno, 2021). Thus, the number of samples used is equal to the number of population, namely 110 villages. The research questionnaire was distributed to the Village Consultative Body (BPD) as the main respondent, with each village represented by five BPD members, so that the total questionnaires distributed were 550. The selection of BPD as respondents is based on their capacity as representatives of the village community, because BPD consists of community leaders, youth, and religious leaders who are considered to have an objective view of public performance and trust. This is in line with the opinion of Husni (2023) and Sofyani et al. (2022), who stated that BPD members are the right respondents

because they are able to represent community perceptions and provide an objective assessment compared to village officials.

The data source used in this study is primary data, namely data obtained directly from respondents and relevant to the research variables to achieve the research objectives (Sekaran, 2017). Data collection was carried out through a survey method using questionnaires, both directly and through electronic media. Electronic questionnaires are considered valid if the response rate reaches at least 30% (Santoso & Madiistriyatno, 2021). Questionnaires are an efficient data collection tool, especially in descriptive and explanatory studies, because they allow respondents to answer questions systematically and uniformly (Sekaran, 2017). The measurement scale used in this questionnaire is the Likert scale of 1–5, which is designed to measure respondents' level of approval of a statement, with five response levels ranging from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree".

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data in this study was obtained through a questionnaire that was distributed directly to the Village Consultative Body (BPD) in Batang Hari Regency. The distribution was carried out with the assistance of the Chairman of PABPDSI and the Secretary of the local Village Community Empowerment Office during the period from April 21 to May 31, 2025. A total of 453 respondents from 110 villages participated. This number has met the requirements of SEM analysis as stated by Hair et al. (2013), that a minimum of 100 observations are required for models with five latent constructs and more than three indicators per construct. Thus, the number of respondents in this study is sufficient for further analysis.

### Characteristics of Respondents

Respondents' characteristics included gender, age, education level, and length of service. Respondents consisted of men and women, both of whom were seen as able to carry out the village supervision function effectively with their respective approaches. Based on age, the majority are in the range of 21–60 years, which indicates adequate thinking maturity and skills to carry out their role in BPD. The level of education of the respondents is also quite diverse, with most of them having taken adequate formal education, so they are expected to be able to understand the content of questionnaires and village reports critically. The respondents' working period is mostly in the range of 6-10 years, reflecting sufficient experience in carrying out supervisory functions and active involvement in village government.

### Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis testing was carried out to test the significance of the relationship between the latent variables of the study. The criteria used were to compare the p-value of the hypothesis test results with a significance level of 0.05. If the  $p\text{-value} \leq 0.05$ , then the hypothesis is accepted that there is an influence of exogenous variables on the endogenous variables. The results of testing the direct and indirect influence hypothesis can be seen in the following table:

Table 1. Hypothesis Testing Results

Laten variable relationship	T-statistic	p-value
AK→KPD	2,847	0,004
AK→KMD	1,894	0,058
TR→KPD	4,738	0,000
TR→KMD	2,335	0,020

Laten variable relationship	T-statistic	p-value
PA→KPD	3,581	0,000
PA→KMD	5,657	0,000
KPD→KMD	2,564	0,010
AK→ KPD→KMD	2,115	0,035
TR→KPD→KMD	2,068	0,039
PA→KPD→KMD	2,000	0,046

source: processed data Smart-PLS 4.1.0.8

Based on table 1, it can be seen that the results of hypothesis testing include the following:

- (1) The t-statistical value of accountability for the performance of the village government is  $2.847 \geq 1.96$  and the p-value is  $0.004 \leq 0.05$ , maha H1 is accepted, meaning that accountability affects the performance of the village government.
- (2) The t-statistical value of accountability to the trust of the village community is  $1.894 \leq 1.96$  and the p-value is  $0.058 \geq 0.05$ , the H2 maha is rejected, meaning that accountability has no effect on the trust of the village community.
- (3) The t-statistical value of transparency on the performance of the village government is  $4.738 \geq 1.96$  and the p-value is  $0.000 \leq 0.05$ , maha H3 is accepted, meaning that transparency affects the performance of the village government.
- (4) The t-statistical value of transparency on the trust of the village community is  $2.335 \geq 1.96$  and the p-value is  $0.020 \leq 0.05$ , the H4 is accepted, meaning that transparency affects the trust of the village community.
- (5) The t-statistical value of budget participation on village government performance is  $3.581 \geq 1.96$  and p-value is  $0.000 \leq 0.05$ , H5 is accepted, meaning that budget participation has an effect on village government performance.
- (6) The t-statistical value of budget participation on the performance of the village government is  $5.657 \geq 1.96$  and the p-value value is  $0.000 \leq 0.05$ , maha H6 is accepted, meaning that budget participation has an effect on the confidence of the village community.
- (7) The t-statistical value of the village government's performance on the trust of the village community is  $2.564 \geq 1.96$  and the p-value value is  $0.010 \leq 0.05$ , maha H7 is accepted, meaning that the performance of the village government has an effect on the trust of the village community.
- (8) The t-statistical value of accountability to the trust of the village community through the performance of the village government is  $2.115 \geq 1.96$  and the p-value value is  $0.035 \leq 0.05$ , the maximum H8 is accepted, meaning that accountability affects the trust of the village community through the performance of the village government.
- (9) The t-statistic value of transparency on the trust of the village community through the performance of the village government is  $2.068 \geq 1.96$  and the p-value is  $0.039 \leq 0.05$ , maha H9 is accepted, meaning that transparency affects the trust of the village community through the performance of the village government.
- (10) The t-statistical value of budget participation on the trust of the village community through the performance of the village government is  $2,000 \geq 1.96$  and the p-value value is  $0.046 \leq 0.05$ , maha H10 is accepted, meaning that budget participation has an effect on the trust of the village community through the performance of the village government.

### The Influence of Mediation

The relationship between exogenous and endogenous constructs in model development often requires explanation through intermediate or mediated variables. Mediation occurs when a mediator

construct acts as an intermediary that influences the relationship between the other two constructs (J. f Hair et al., 2021). In this study, the effect of mediation can be seen in the following table:

**Table 2. Determination of Mediation Types**

Variable	Y1→Y2 (P1)	Y1→Y2→Y3 (P1 x P2)	Y1→Y3 (P3)	Mediation Type
Accountability	Significant	Significant	Not Significant	Full Mediation
Transparency	Significant	Significant	Significant	Complementary (Partial Mediation)
Budget Participation	Significant	Significant	Significant	Complementary (Partial Mediation)

Source: Smart-PLS 4.1.0.8 test results with the criteria of J. f Hair et al., (2021)

Based on the above data, it is known that based on the assessment criteria for the type of mediation, it is known that:

- (1) Directly (P1) accountability affects the performance of the village government, indirectly (P1x P2) accountability is mediated by the performance of the village government on the trust of the village community with significant test results. However, directly (P3) accountability is not significant in affecting the trust of the village community, so based on the assessment criteria, there is a full type of mediation.
- (2) Directly (P1) transparency affects the performance of the village government, indirectly (P1x P2) transparency mediated by the performance of the village government on the trust of the village community with significant test results, and directly (P3) significant transparency in affecting the trust of the village community so that based on the assessment criteria that there is a type of partial mediation.
- (3) Directly (P1) budget participation affects the performance of the village government, indirectly (P1x P2) budget participation mediated by the performance of the village government on the trust of the village community with significant test results, and directly (P3) significant budget participation in affecting the trust of the village community so that based on the assessment criteria that there is a type of partial mediation.

### **The Effect of Accountability on Village Government Performance in Villages in Batang Hari Regency**

The results showed that the relationship of accountability variables to the performance of the village government showed a path coefficient of 0.229 greater than 0 and less than 1 ( $0.229 > 0$ ) was declared positive. The t-statistical value of 2.847 is greater than 1.96 ( $2.847 > 1.96$ ) is declared significant. A p-value of 0.004 is small from 0.05 ( $0.004 < 0.05$ ) declared the hypothesis to be accepted. With these results, it can be stated that the accountability variable has a positive and significant effect on the performance of the village government.

The results of this study show that accountability affects the performance of the village government. The results of this study are in line with research conducted by Basri et al., (2021) which stated that increased accountability is directly proportional to the improvement in village government performance. The results of this study support the stewardship theory which states that

the village government will act based on the interests of the village community as a form of responsibility and devotion to the mandate given.

This research is also supported by research conducted by Suwanti & Hermanto, (2020) this finding indicates that the better the form of accountability carried out by the village government, the better the performance. Each government agency is required to account for financial statements and performance reports as a whole, in line with the results of the implementation of programs and activities that have been carried out. Thus, all interested parties can assess the extent to which the village government has carried out its performance appropriately and accountably.

Another research conducted by Putra, (2018) which stated that accountability also affects government performance. The implementation of good accountability encourages the achievement of effective performance of public service organizations, through the implementation of tasks that begin with planning, preparation, and implementation are carried out transparently and can be reported and accounted for systematically to stakeholders. Hermansyah et al., (2018) also stated that if accountability is properly implemented, the quality of public services which is the performance of the government will also be better.

The effect of accountability on the performance of the village government in Batang Hari Regency is due to the orderly administration of the village apparatus in accounting for its performance in accordance with the regulations that regulate village financial management, namely Permendagri No. 20 of 2018. The entire village in Batang Hari Regency has used the same financial information system, namely the use of SISKEUDES in the processing of the implementation of financial activities, so that the deadline for submission and closing of applications also demands good performance of village officials in the implementation of accountability. High accountability encourages the improvement of the performance of public service organizations through the implementation of tasks in accordance with planning. The village government as an implementer of public services that focuses on the interests of the community is required to be able to account for all tasks carried out.

### **The Effect of Accountability on Village Community Trust in Villages in Batang Hari Regency**

The results showed that the relationship of accountability variables to the trust of the village community showed a path coefficient of 0.133 greater than 0 and less than 1 ( $0.133 > 0$ ) was declared positive. The t-statistical value of 1.894 is less than 1.96 ( $1.894 < 1.96$ ) is declared insignificant. A p-value of 0.058 greater than 0.05 ( $0.058 > 0.05$ ) is declared hypothetically rejected. Based on these results, it can be stated that the accountability variable has no effect on the trust of the village community.

Based on the results of this study, it is known that accountability has no effect on the trust of the village community. This research is in line with research conducted by Pratolo et al., (2022) and Sofyani, Pratolo, et al., (2022) which found that accountability has no influence on the trust of rural communities. This indicates that members of the Village Consultative Body as representatives of the village community view that transactions accompanied by evidence, timely completion of financial statements, and the implementation of village government activities in accordance with the Village Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBDes) have not been able to increase the trust of the village community.

Akbar et al., (2012) emphasized that this condition indicates that not all aspects of accountability are fully conveyed by the village head to the community, because the focus of the village government is still more dominant on vertical accountability, namely to the Sub-district Head, Regency Government (Regent) or Provincial Government (Governor), compared to external accountability to the main stakeholders, namely the community (Kurniasih & Israwan Setyoko, 2019). On the other hand, the community tends to ignore the accountability of the village government because the programs run by the village government are considered to only benefit certain groups (Sofyani & Tahar, 2021).

In Batang Hari Regency, there are a number of villages that show strong dominance of power by the village government, so that they dominate the community and other village elements, including the Village Consultative Body (BPD). In addition, this condition is also caused by the low understanding of the village community regarding their role as supervisors of the implementation of government activities and the right to be held accountable for the performance that has been carried out. When associated with theory, the results of this research are not in line with stakeholder theory which states that the village government should act to fulfill the interests and obtain support from stakeholders, in this case the village community as a form of legitimacy for the activities listed in the financial statements and annual reports.

### **The Effect of Transparency on the Performance of Village Governments in Villages in Batang Hari Regency**

The results showed that the relationship of transparency variables to the performance of the village government showed that the path coefficient of 0.418 was greater than 0 and less than 1 ( $0.418 > 0$ ) was declared positive. The t-statistical value of 4.738 is greater than 1.96 ( $4.738 > 1.96$ ) is declared significant. A p-value of 0.000 small of 0.05 ( $0.000 < 0.05$ ) is declared an accepted hypothesis. With these results, it can be stated that the transparency variable has a positive and significant effect on the performance of the village government.

The results of this study indicate that members of the Village Consultative Body (BPD) consider that information regarding the receipt and use of village funds (APBDes), the implementation of activities, and performance achievements have been submitted periodically both through billboards at village offices, village meeting forums, and through the official website of the village government. The findings of this study are in line with the research conducted (Husni et al., 2023; Sofyani, Pratolo, et al., 2022; Basri et al., 2021; Hermansyah et al., 2018).

This research supports the theory of stewardship which views that village government is an agent mandated by the community to organize government for the public good. The village government conveys information openly to the community starting from the budgeting process to the implementation of activity programs. Transparency contributes to the creation of effective performance management which ultimately has a positive impact on improving the performance of village government. Transparency provides space for the community to supervise the implementation of government activities (Basri et al., 2021).

Village governments that face various demands from the community, especially related to information disclosure in government management (transparency), or when the level of community

trust in the village government begins to decline, it is necessary to make efforts to improve performance to be more optimal. This is because the performance of the village government is very important in encouraging the creation of transparency and rebuilding community trust (Husni et al., 2023). Transparency plays a role as a strategic instrument that can be used by village governments to build and gain public trust. Therefore, the village government needs to understand its role and responsibilities comprehensively and show optimal performance, considering the high expectations of the community for the implementation of open and accountable government.

### **The Effect of Transparency on the Trust of Village Communities in Villages in Batang Hari Regency**

The results showed that the relationship of transparency variables to the trust of the village community showed that the path coefficient of 0.244 was greater than 0 and less than 1 ( $0.244 > 0$ ) was declared positive. The t-statistical value of 2.335 is greater than 1.96 ( $2.335 > 1.96$ ) is declared significant. A p-value of 0.020 small out of 0.05 ( $0.020 < 0.05$ ) is declared an accepted hypothesis. With these results, it can be stated that the transparency variable affects the trust of the village community.

The results of this study are in line with the research that has been conducted by (Nur Arum et al., 2024; Husni et al., 2023; Suhardi et al., 2023; Sofyani, Yaya, et al., 2022; Sofyani, Pratolo, et al., 2022; Sofyani & Tahar, 2021; Alessandro et al., 2021; Sa'adah & Syadeli, 2021; Beshi & Kaur, 2020; Hu et al., 2020; Nurrizkiana et al., 2017). This research shows that transparency contributes to increasing public trust and encouraging active community participation in village development. This finding is strengthened by the characteristics of village communities who uphold the values of togetherness, where they will feel appreciated if every action and policy of the village government is conveyed openly and informatively to them (Suhardi et al., 2023; Sofyani & Tahar, 2021; Nurrizkiana et al., 2017). The implementation of transparency can serve as a means of legitimacy for village governments in responding to low public perceptions of corrupt practices, especially when the government is seen as a vulnerable party to corruption. Transparency plays a role in reducing the public's negative perception of corruption and increasing the level of trust in village government. this also strengthens the relationship between the village government and stakeholders in the village (Sofyani, Yaya, et al., 2022).

The findings in this study are in line with the stakeholder theory put forward by Freeman (1984) which states that the sustainability of the organization is greatly influenced by the support of stakeholders, and this support needs to be built through relevant and sustainable organizational activities. In addition, transparency is intended as a mechanism to reduce information gaps so that the public has the opportunity to understand and assess the processes and policies implemented by the government. Transparency is also an important element in building public trust in village government.

Other research conducted by Alessandro et al., (2021) and Beshi & Kaur, (2020) suggests that providing information to the public plays an important role in shaping perceptions of government transparency. In addition, the content or substance of the information conveyed also affects the public's assessment of the government's performance. Based on the description above, the implementation of transparency needs to be maintained and improved, because the disclosure of

information related to work programs, financial management, and village performance contributes positively to building and increasing the trust of the village community.

#### The Effect of Budget Participation on Village Government Performance in Villages in Batang Hari Regency

The results showed that the variable relationship of budget participation to the performance of the village government showed a path coefficient of 0.273 greater than 0 and less than 1 ( $0.273 > 0$ ) was declared positive. The t-statistical value of 3.581 is greater than 1.96 ( $3.581 > 1.96$ ) declared significant. A p-value of 0.000 small of 0.05 ( $0.000 < 0.05$ ) is declared an accepted hypothesis. With these results, it can be stated that the variable of budget participation has a positive and significant effect on the performance of the village government.

The results of this study are in line with the research conducted by (Sofyani & Ardiyanto, 2022; Amir et al., 2021; Sofyani et al., 2020 and Romario et al., 2019). The budget preparation process serves as a reference in planning and performance assessment, which is then used as a tool to control and evaluate managerial performance, in this case the performance of the village government. management at all levels and community leaders also play a role in the budget participation process. This involvement provides benefits in the form of obtaining input and constructive support that is useful to respond to various demands that must be met, while supporting the achievement of goals that have been set by the village government (Pratolo et al., 2020; Sofyani et al., 2020).

According to Romario et al., (2019) the involvement of individuals or government officials in the budgeting process can encourage the growth of a sense of responsibility for the tasks undertaken. This participation ultimately contributes to improving the performance of government employees or officials, in this case the village government. The implementation of government in Batang Hari Regency has been carried out well, because every month there are always regular meetings to discuss the extent of the completion of the work that has been done and what achievements have been achieved. Community involvement in the formulation of budget priorities encourages village officials to be more responsible in carrying out their duties (Haitamy & Afrizal, Wahyudi, 2018).

#### The Effect of Budget Participation on Village Community Trust in Villages in Batang Hari Regency

The results showed that the relationship of the variable of budget participation to the trust of the village community showed a path coefficient of 0.376 greater than 0 and less than 1 ( $0.376 > 0$ ) was declared positive. The t-statistical value of 5.657 is greater than 1.96 ( $5.657 > 1.96$ ) is declared significant. A p-value of 0.000 small of 0.05 ( $0.000 < 0.05$ ) is declared an accepted hypothesis. With these results, it can be stated that the variable of budget participation affects the trust of the village community.

The results of this study are supported by research (Lee et al., 2023; Suhardi et al., 2023 and Xin et al., 2023). The practice of budget participation has become a global practice, all local governments in South Korea since 2017 are required to implement budget participation to encourage citizen participation in the formulation of budget track decisions. According to (Lee et al., 2023), there are three factors that affect public trust in the government, namely: (1) citizens' understanding

of the budget and its processes, (2) government efforts to capture citizen input, and (3) cooperation in understanding the needs and limitations of both parties.

According to Suhardi et al., (2023) the implementation of budgeting in the Binuang sub-district area not only involves the community in general, but also includes all elements of society, including village stakeholders in every budgeting process starting from planning, implementation, reporting to accountability. In addition, the community has the right to submit suggestions, responses, and criticisms to village program decisions. Xin et al., (2023) suggest that public participation in formulation is considered important in a democratic system. The implementation of budgeting in villages in Batang Hari Regency has been carried out in a participatory manner by involving community elements.

### **The Influence of Accountability on Village Community Trust through Village Government Performance in Villages in Batang Hari Regency**

The results showed that the relationship of accountability variables to the trust of the village community through the performance of the village government showed a path coefficient of 0.047 greater than 0 and less than 1 ( $0.047 > 0$ ) was declared positive. The t-statistical value of 2.115 is greater than 1.96 ( $2.115 > 1.96$ ) is declared significant. A p-value of 0.035 is small from 0.05 ( $0.035 < 0.05$ ) declared the hypothesis to be accepted. With these results, it can be stated that the accountability variable has a positive and significant effect on the trust of the village community through the performance of the village government. Although reporting has been carried out periodically and information has been properly conveyed to the community as part of the accountability indicator in this research, the results of the activities carried out by the village government have not been in accordance with the expectations of the community, causing distrust in the village government. However, when government performance acts as a mediator between accountability and trust of the village community, community trust increases. This shows that accountability requires support from optimal village government performance to increase public trust.

The results of this study support previous research conducted by (Suhardi et al., 2023; Pratolo et al., 2022; Sa'adah & Syadeli, 2021 and Broadbent, 2020). These findings indicate that improving the performance of village governments contributes to strengthening accountability which can ultimately build community trust. This research supports the stakeholder theory that states that an organization, including the village government, not only operates to fulfill its interests but must also provide benefits for the stakeholders, namely the village community. The survival of the organization depends heavily on the support from stakeholders obtained through responsive and responsible organizational performance.

Pratolo et al., (2022) stated that accountability has a positive relationship with community trust, which is mediated by the performance of the village government. The trust of the village community tends to increase if accountability in government management is realized through quality public services that can be proven in real terms. One of the strategic efforts made by the government to maintain public trust is not only showing commitment to accounting for every action, but also manifested through the implementation of quality public services (Broadbent, 2020)

## The Effect of Transparency on Village Community Trust through Village Government Performance in Villages in Batang Hari Regency

The results showed that the relationship of transparency variables to the trust of the village community through the performance of the village government showed a path coefficient of 0.086 greater than 0 and less than 1 ( $0.086 > 0$ ) was declared positive. The t-statistical value of 2.068 is greater than 1.96 ( $2.068 > 1.96$ ) is declared significant. A p-value of 0.039 small of 0.05 ( $0.039 < 0.05$ ) is declared an accepted hypothesis. With these results, it can be stated that the transparency variable has a positive and significant effect on the trust of the village community through the performance of the village government.

This research supports the stakeholder theory that states that an organization does not operate solely for its own interests, but must provide benefits to the pre-stakeholders and have a reciprocal relationship in influencing or being influenced by the organization's achievements, goals and performance. The achievement of organizational goals can be realized through transparency practices, including by conveying information on the acquisition and use of the Village Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBDes), as well as the implementation of other village development activities and achievements.

This research is in line with the results of research conducted by (Husni et al., 2023; Alessandro et al., 2021; Sa'adah, L., & Syadeli, 2021 and Broadbent, 2020). Increasing public trust does not only depend on the delivery of information, but must also be accompanied by optimal government performance. The information in question is information that can be verified for truth and conveyed objectively without any manipulation. Information manipulation will erode public trust in the government and reduce the value of information itself as a tool to realize transparency and accountability (Alessandro et al., 2021).

## The Effect of Budget Participation on Village Community Trust through Village Government Performance in Villages in Batang Hari Regency

The results showed that the variable relationship of budget participation to the trust of the village community through the performance of the village government showed a path coefficient of 0.056 greater than 0 and less than 1 ( $0.056 > 0$ ) was declared positive. The t-statistical value of 2,000 greater than 1.96 ( $2,000 > 1.96$ ) is declared significant. A p-value of 0.046 is small from 0.05 ( $0.046 < 0.05$ ) declared the hypothesis to be accepted. With these results, it can be stated that the variable of budget participation has a positive and significant effect on the trust of the village community through the performance of the village government. This research is in line with research conducted by (Xin et al., 2023 and Lee et al., 2023). Budgeting participation in increasing public trust is influenced by the performance of the village government. Village communities involved in the implementation of budgeting show that in achieving optimal results, budgeting is adjusted to the needs and aspirations of the community (Xin et al., 2023 and Lee et al., 2023).

## The Effect of Village Government Performance on Village Community Trust in Villages in Batang Hari Regency

The results showed that the relationship of the variable of village government performance to the trust of the village community showed a path coefficient of 0.206 greater than 0 and less than 1 ( $0.206 > 0$ ) was declared positive. The t-statistical value of 2.564 is greater than 1.96 ( $2.564 > 1.96$ ) is declared significant. A p-value of 0.010 small from 0.05 ( $0.010 < 0.05$ ) is declared an accepted hypothesis. With these results, it can be stated that the accountability variable has a positive and significant effect on the performance of the village government. The results of this study support the research conducted by (Husni et al., 2023; Alessandro et al., 2021; Sa'adah, L., & Syadeli, 2021 and Broadbent, 2020). The performance of the village government needs to be maintained in order to maintain public trust. The findings of the study show that improving the performance of village governments contributes to the growth of public trust. This condition has implications for the process of budget planning, program preparation, and performance evaluation, with the aim of encouraging more optimal improvement of village governance (Husni et al., 2023).

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that accountability, transparency, and budget participation have a significant influence on the performance of village government. Good performance will have a positive impact on accountability, which reflects the professional and responsible execution of government duties and responsibilities. Although accountability does not directly affect community trust, through improving the performance of village government, accountability can encourage community trust. On the contrary, transparency has been proven to directly increase public trust, because people feel involved and obtain information openly through various village communication channels. This strengthens stakeholder theory which emphasizes the importance of stakeholder involvement and satisfaction, in this case the village community.

Furthermore, budget participation also shows a positive influence on the performance of the village government and community trust. Through community involvement in the budgeting process, village governments can increase legitimacy and strengthen relationships with residents. Community trust is also significantly influenced by transparency and participation mediated by the performance of the village government. This means that open information and inclusive participation need to be accompanied by concrete performance so that the community really feels the benefits. The performance of the village government itself has been proven to have a direct impact on public trust. Thus, to build community trust in a sustainable manner, village governments need to strengthen their performance by prioritizing accountability, transparency, and public participation in every government process.

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