



## DECENTRALIZATION WITHIN CITIES AND SMALL AUTONOMY REGION FOR DESA IN INDONESIA: IS IT POSSIBLE?

Ike Wanusmawatie<sup>1\*</sup> and Shinta Fatimah Durrety<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Brawijaya University (Faculty of Administrative Science, Brawijaya University, Malang,  
Indonesia)

\*Corresponding Email: [ikew@ub.ac.id](mailto:ikew@ub.ac.id)

### ABSTRACT

*The major purpose of this study is to provide an overview of how village governance issues are currently being addressed. Second, evaluate it and compare it to previous versions depending on the rules. Third, incorporate it into the concept of decentralization within cities and design it as a small autonomous region. Research on village autonomy based on decentralization in Indonesia is scant and insufficient. This study was created in order to close this gap. In this study, the notions of decentralization within cities concept are relatively new. The literature review helps the study more successfully achieve its goals. Data from the last five years (2019-2024) were utilized to meet the first target, and data from 1906-2024 was used to meet the second. This, data from Indonesia's reliance on village until the post-reformation period are generally used in this research. The findings indicate that, first, public services that affect the wellbeing of village residents cannot be provided by the village government affair as they are currently implemented. Second, the best public services can only be offered by autonomous regions. Third, villages can be an alternative for putting into practice effective village government that are focused on the requirements of the community and also enhance future research on decentralization and village autonomy.*

**Keywords:** (a) Decentralization in Cities, (b) Local Government, (c) Village, (d) Autonomy.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Law No. 6/2014 on Villages is now 10 years old. Throughout the implementation of this regulation, the attention of practitioners and academics has been focused on village governance. According to the findings of a literature search of 50 articles gathered using the publish/perish application, research on village governance is increasingly focused on improving village government administrative activities in order to improve the quality of services delivered to village communities. Examples include village digitalization, information system, and village websites. The next study focuses on increasing the capacity of village officials, village governance, village government management, village institutions and community empowerment. If a common thread is drawn, then almost all of these studies focus on one goal, namely to provide quality services to the village community.

Quality services can only be produced by service providers that have the capacity and authority in accordance with public needs. Meanwhile, the village government has limitations on both, so that services provided have not been able to meet the expectations of the village community. Wanusmawatie (2018) in her dissertation entitled Complexity of Village Government Performance System Based on System Thinking said that the Village Government

Ike Wanusmawatie and Shinta Fatimah Durrety

Cendana International Conference on Social and Political Science:

Global Knowledge Production from the Southern Region in Social Science 2024



does not have the authority or government affairs directly related to the provision of public goods and services, the Village Government only acts as an intermediary between the community and the local government in meeting public service needs (Wanusmawatie, 2019: Wanusmawatie, Durrety, Ferdianzah, & Khasanah, 2023: Wanusmawatie, Durrety, Prasetyo, & Sriyono, 2022). Furthermore, Ombudsman (2018), Brilian (2024) and Panda (2023) convey that public services that are important for the welfare of rural communities, such as health, education, and infrastructure, are often poorly managed. Services provided by village governments do not directly affect the improvement of the human development index, especially in the fields of education, health, and economy (Wanusmawatie, 2018; Wanusmawatie & Durrety, 2024). Wibowo & Mursyidah (2022) also emphasized the disparity between community expectations of the quality of service performance received and the reality that exists.

In fact, the village Government has the authority granted under Articles 18-22 of Law No. 6/2014 on Villages. One of them is the local authority, which implements the idea of subsidiarity in the field. However, these authorities and principles cannot directly regulate and manage basic needs, legal legitimacy, economic driving infrastructure, and the provision of security and public order services. Where the affairs mentioned are types of public goods and services that are very basic, continue to grow and become the demands of society. In addition, it is a component in welfare indicators. Only the regional and central government have direct authority to provide them. Meanwhile, the village government acts as an intermediary. Such organizations, according to Ranggawidjaja (2013) are referred to as shadow governments. Then Nurcholis (2016) calls it a pseudo-government unit while Wasistiono (2019) calls it a quasi-local self-government and Wanusmawatie & Ulum (2021) calls it a government unit with a dual personality, namely “half” self-governing community and “half” local self-government. On the one hand, it organizes government, service, empowerment and development functions, but on the other hand, it does not have the institutional capacity or authority to support the implementation of these functions in order to provide public services.

Providing public services that are needed by the village community is one of the objectives of village governance. The effectiveness has shown that good governance in village government is more focused on formal administration and servicing the government than on commitments to the village community (Wanusmawatie, 2023). The effectiveness of village governance has a high dependence on the government system above it, namely the regional and central governments. This greatly affects the achievement of the effectiveness and quality of village governance.

In addition, the facts on the ground show that the rural poverty rate over the past almost ten years (2014-2023) has only decreased by 0.13% per year. Based on official data released by Indonesia's Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the rural poverty rate in 2014 was 13.76%. Meanwhile, in 2023 it was 12.12%. This over the last 10 years, it has only decreased by 1.34%. This means that per year it only decreased by 0.13%. Since Law No.6/2024 on Village was enacted, the Village Government has received assistance in the form of Village Funds from

Ike Wanusmawatie and Shinta Fatimah Durrety

Cendana International Conference on Social and Political Science:

Global Knowledge Production from the Southern Region in Social Science 2024



the State Budget (APBN) of approximately 500 trillion (Nurcholis, 2024a). The facts and findings from previous studies described above further reinforce the objectives of village regulation and structuring to be achieved as stated in Law No.6/2014 on Village are difficult to realize. The objectives are as follows:

- a) Realizing the effectiveness of Village Government
- b) Improving the welfare of the village community
- c) Improving the quality of public services
- d) Improving the quality of village governance
- e) Improving the competitiveness of the village

The question is why is it difficult to realize? From the studies and findings above, several problems can be identified, namely:

- 1) High dependence on regional and central government affects the effectiveness of village governance and quality of village governance.
- 2) Village governments do not have formal authority and autonomy in relation to the direct provision of public goods and services, making it difficult to escape poverty and the general welfare of village communities has not been realized.
- 3) The form or status of the village as a quasi-government and its position outside the local government structure causes problems number 1 and 2 above to occur so that the objectives of village governance are difficult to realize.
- 4) The identification of problems number 1, 2 and 3 has caused the quality of governance and competitiveness of village governments to be generally low and weak.

This is frequent empirical issue that arises in practically every community in Indonesia. Not only in genealogical villages, but also in those with territorial characteristics. It occurs not only in poor communities, but also at the boundary with urban regions. It occurs in both western and eastern Indonesia (Wanusmawatie, 2018). As a result, it requires considerable consideration to identify answers in the future..

On the other hand, decentralization refers to the transfer of authority from higher to lower levels of government. Muluk, Indraswari, Wiswayana, & Yunita (2024) defines decentralization as either direct or multilayered. Decentralization is frequently viewed as a means of strengthening governance, promoting local autonomy, and improving the quality of public service delivery. Furthermore, decentralization is intended to increase efficiency and effectiveness in public service delivery by allowing local governments to innovate and adjust services to their people's individual requirements (Malawi, 2024). Decentralization is means not ends. In general, decentralization is implemented in order to achieve the goal of welfare for the community on both a national and local scale and ensure the achievement of these goals more effectively (M. Muluk, 2023).

Academic studies that place villages as self-governing local governments based on decentralization are still rarely discussed seriously by many experts, especially village government experts. Moreover, using the mechanism of decentralization to part of the local



government. This concept is called decentralization within cities. Decentralization within cities conceptually offers more efficient, effective and democratic implementation of authority and affairs. In addition to decentralization within cities, the conceptual offer of small autonomy regions is also interesting as an alternative to solving the empirical problems of villages in general.

Currently, the government is more willing to execute the notion of recognizing the existence of village administrations. This recognition involves indigenous authority as well as the state's acceptance of the existence of communities. Indeed, from the colonial era, the Dutch government has carried out recognition through the *Inlandsche Gemeente Ordonnantie* 1906 (IGO 1906) and *Inlandsche Gemeente Ordonnantie Buitengewesten* 1938 (IGOB 1938). What is more important is that the continuation of this recognition should not stop at customary autonomy and the provision of Village Funds from the State Budget (APBN) and Village Fund Allocation from the Regional Budget (APBD), but rather provide opportunities by providing basic authority in accordance with the direct needs of rural communities.

With reference to the identification of problems in points 1-4 above, added with the desire to be able to bring up ideas, ideas and strengthen recommendations to solve the problems in the identification above, the problem formulation in this study is determined as follows:

- 1) How is the current implementation of village government authority related to public services to village communities?
- 2) How does it compare with the implementation of village authority based on previous regulations?
- 3) Can decentralization within cities and small autonomy regions be applied in the practice of village governance?

The hope is to provide more efficient, effective, and democratic services in accordance with the needs of the village community. Thus, the objectives of village governance will be easier to reach and achieve, governance is of higher quality so that village competitiveness is higher and the welfare of the village community is realized. This study aims to fill the existing gaps in the literature on village governance by expanding the concept of decentralization, particularly within the context of villages as small autonomous regions. The integration of this concept into village governance provides a new theoretical framework that contrasts the current implementation with previous versions, based on regulatory changes over time. By critically analyzing the effectiveness of current village governance and proposing the idea of villages functioning as autonomous regions, this study contributes a novel perspective that enhances the theoretical understanding of decentralization and village autonomy. This framework not only supports future research but also offers valuable insights for policymakers aiming to improve public services tailored to the specific needs of village communities.





## 2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research adopts a qualitative approach with inductive thinking. The method employed is a literature review. The objectives of this study are: first, to describe and analyze the implementation of village government authority in Indonesia; second, to provide an overview of the effectiveness of village government from the pre-independence period to post-independence; and third, to explain and construct the concept of decentralization within cities and its potential impact on the status of villages and the effectiveness of village government in the future.

The first and second issues focus on village government, while the third issue focuses on the conditions and consequences of granting decentralization to village governments from regional governments, allowing villages to become small autonomous regions. This would clarify their position within Indonesia's government structure, granting them formal autonomy from cities or regencies, rather than just territorial placement, which currently leaves their status within the government structure unclear.

The data collection technique involves a literature study using secondary data as the main source for analysis. To address the first issue, data from the period 2019-2024 is used. Secondary data from 1930-2024 is utilized to answer the second issue, while data from 2020-2024 is used for the third issue. Data is collected with the aid of tools such as Publish or Perish and Google Scholar.

Secondary data includes previous studies, policy reviews, regulations, relevant historical records related to village government, and books on local government, decentralization, public services, and public administration. The data is analyzed using a thematic approach. The data obtained is processed and categorized based on key themes such as village authority, public service provision, decentralization, autonomy and models of local government. To ensure the validity of the findings, triangulation is used, where data is cross-verified through source checks and theoretical justification. Theoretical justification involves validating findings with existing theories from previous research or specific experts. In this context, justification is obtained from local/regional government experts, decentralization, and village government experts from Universitas Brawijaya and Universitas Terbuka Jakarta.

## 3. RESEARCH RESULTS & DISCUSSION

### The Implementation of Village Government Authority

Based on the results of field research, the implementation of village government authority is based on Articles 18 and 19 of Law No. 6/2014 on Village. Then it is derived into Government Regulation (PP) Number 43 of 2014 concerning Guidelines for the Implementation of the Law. This is clarified through Article 7 of the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 44/2016 on Village Authority.

Article 18 of the Village Authority includes the authority in the field of organizing Village Administration, implementing Village Development, fostering Village communities, and empowering Village communities based on community initiatives, rights of origin, and Village

Ike Wanusmawatie and Shinta Fatimah Durrety

Cendana International Conference on Social and Political Science:

Global Knowledge Production from the Southern Region in Social Science 2024



customs. Meanwhile, Article 19 states that village authority includes authority based on the right of origin; village-scale local authority; authority assigned by the Government, Provincial Government, or Regency / City Government; and other authorities assigned by the Government, Provincial Government, or Regency / City Government in accordance with statutory provisions. The explanation is as follows:

- 1) Authority based on the right of origin. Rights that arise from the initiative of the village concerned or the initiative of the local community, as long as they do not conflict with the provisions of applicable laws and regulations. Includes: systems used by indigenous peoples; building community institutions; establishment of customary institutions and institutions; management of village treasury land; increasing the responsibility of village communities.
- 2) Village-scale local authority The authority to regulate and manage the interests of the Village community that has been carried out by the Village or is able and effective to be carried out by the Village which arises due to the development of the Village and the initiative of the Village community. Village-scale local authority is born due to initiatives from the village in accordance with the village's capabilities, needs, and local conditions.
- 3) Authorities assigned by the Government, Provincial Regional Government, or Regency/City Regional Government. Government affairs that are delegated to the government below by carrying out part or all of its authority are referred to as assistance tasks. Assistance tasks come from the central, provincial, and regency/city governments. Each assistance task assigned to the village must be accompanied by financial support, facilities and infrastructure, and human resources whose implementation is guided by laws and regulations.
- 4) Other authorities assigned by the Government, Provincial Government, or Regency/City Government in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations. Other governmental affairs assigned to the Village in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations. (Law No. 6/2014 on Villages).

The authority mentioned above will be related to the services that the village administration can provide. The goal of this first study is to describe and examine the application of village government power for public services. Meanwhile, the concept of public service is that the state, specifically the government, provides public goods and services to citizens (Nurcholish, 2021). This service is distinguished by the fact that it is delivered to residents by public organizations (rather than privately held enterprises), in the form of public goods and services, is a state monopoly, and is funded through citizen taxes. However, the types are:

- a) Basic needs of citizens
- b) Legal legality of citizens
- c) Infrastructure to grow the people's economy
- d) Empowering disadvantaged groups of society
- e) Social and Public Facilities



- f) Recreation Area
- g) Compensation to the poor and abandoned children.
- h) Guaranteeing civil and political rights.
- i) Protection to the people (Nurcholis, 2024b; Nurcholish, 2021)

With reference to the two concepts above, namely the authority of the village government and the concept of public services along with indicators and types, the current research results are obtained based on document searches in the 2019-2024 period as follows:

### **Authority Based on Origin Rights or Indigenous Authority**

Law Number 6 of 2014 respecting Villages contains regulations governing village authority. In addition, Government Regulation Number 43 of 2014, Implementing Regulations of the Village Law, was revised by PP Number 47 of 2015. Village Authority is also regulated by Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 44 of 2016 concerning Village Authority (Permendagri No. 44/2016) and Regulations Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration Number 1 of 2015 concerning Guidelines for Authority Based on Rights of Origin and Village-Scale Local Authority (Permendes PDTT No. 1 of 2015).

According to Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 44 of 2016 concerning Village Authority, matters based on original rights include village officials' organizational system, indigenous community organization system, community institutional development, development of customary institutions and laws, village treasury land management, management of village land or village-owned land using local designations, and crooked land management. Then there's *pecatu* land management, *titisara* land management, and the development of local communities' roles. Almost all are located in Central and East Java. Meanwhile, for traditional villages, the rights of origin consist of structuring the organizational and institutional systems of traditional communities, customary legal institutions, ownership of traditional rights, management of customary village treasury land, customary land management, and agreement in the lives of traditional village communities to fill the roles of traditional village heads and traditional village officials; length of office of the traditional village head

According to research studies pertaining to village authority, Wanusmawatie et al (2022 & 2023) conducted research in Kuwolu village and Pandanajeng village in Malang district in 2022 while in Kalirejo village in Probolinggo district in 2023. Based on the results in the field, it shows that for this authority there are no public goods and services provided to the community. Planning, implementation, and financing initiatives are often initiated by the village community itself, with the village government only facilitating and defending as long as it does not conflict with applicable laws and regulations. In East Java and its surrounding areas, the concept of origin is mostly based on tradition and culture. This includes practices like as *suroan*, *bersih desa*, *nyadran*, *slametan*, *tahlilan*, *mithoni*, *barikan*, *istighosah*, *ruwatan*, *bantengan*, *jaranan*,



and *punden* upkeep. Although the traditional government structure has been discontinued, customary conflict resolution methods have also ceased to exist. However, practices like as deliberation, consensus-building, and maintaining a sense of kinship are still upheld

In 2023, a study by Wanusmawatie et al (2023) was undertaken in Kalirejo Village, Probolinggo Regency. The researchers observed that there were no public services available pertaining to the authority of the right of origin in the village. Services pertaining to the right of origin in relation to security and order were not found, as they had been assumed by the Village Security Advisor (BABINSA) and the Security and Order Advisor (BABINKAMTIBMAS). Furthermore, there were a lack of customary conflict resolution services. The aforementioned nine forms of public services were also not discovered.

In addition, Firmansyah (2023) discovered in his study on the Implementation of Village Authority Based on the Right of Origin and Village-Scale Local Authority (conducted in Kaboro Village, Lambitu District, Bima Regency) that this authority is rarely utilized due to the erosion and depletion of its object, ultimately rendering it non-existent. The jurisdiction is limited to resolving conflicts regarding cultivated land in accordance with traditional practices, as well as matters pertaining to marriage such as the proposal, asset calculation, asset settlement, determination of marriage timing, and its execution. These proceedings must involve the presence of traditional leaders or local customary leaders. This authority mostly resides within the realm of the private sector rather than the public sector.

Sutarmento (2020) conducted an inquiry on the myth of loyalty to the authority of the District Land Administration Department, focusing on the Authority of Original Rights and Local Authority Scale. The research conducted in Bangunjiwo village, Kasihan district, Bantul district, revealed that the governance of village land assets in Bangunjiwo village adheres to the regulations outlined in the DIY PerGub No. 34 Year 2017 about the management of village land. There is a current initiative to enforce local policies and adhere to existing laws in order for the village government to certify the ownership of village land and fulfill its duties as a well-organized administrative body, while also respecting traditional customs that are still observed today. In addition, Daulay (2021) conducted a study on the implementation of village authority based on original rights in the preservation of ancestors in Mount Sahilan village, situated in the Kampar district. The study also revealed the absence of public services. Therefore, it can be inferred that when exercising the authority of original rights, there are no components of public services.

### **Authority Based on Local Scale**

This authority was established through the village's own initiative, taking into account the village's ability, requirements, and local conditions. At a minimum, it covers the management of boat moorings, village market management, management of public baths, irrigation network management, management of the village community residential environment, community health development and management of integrated service posts, development and coaching of art and learning studios, management of village libraries and reading gardens, village *embung*

Ike Wanusmawatie and Shinta Fatimah Durrety

Cendana International Conference on Social and Political Science:

Global Knowledge Production from the Southern Region in Social Science 2024





management, village scale drinking water management, and making village road.

According to the findings of the document search, the mystery surrounding the implementation of this power remains unresolved. Wanusmawatie (2023) discovered that one way to fulfill this authority is by offering online village information services. The dissemination of this information is facilitated using a software application known as *Desaku Tuntas*. Nevertheless, the operator's resources are managed during its deployment. However, there has been a rise in information services available to the general people. Basic health care is provided through an integrated health post called "posyandu" for newborns and a village health post known as "Poskesdes". Within the realm of education, there exist services specifically tailored to the instruction of young children, known as early childhood education services. Below is the information regarding the educational services available in Kuwolu Village, Malang.

**Table 1. Type of Education Services in Kuwolu Village in 2024**

No	Name	Quantity	Description
1	PAUD	1	PAUD Surya Buana Kuwolu
2	TK	2	TK AL-HIKMAH TanjungSari TK AS-SHODIQ Kuwolu
3	SD	1	SDN 1 Kawolu
4	MI	2	MI AL-HIKMAH Tangjungsari MI AS-SHODIQ Kuwolu
5	SMP/MTs	2	MTs AL-HIKMAH Tangjungsari SMPI AS-S AS-SHODIQ Kuwolu
6	SLTA	1	SMAI AL-HIKMAH Tangjungsari
7	TPQ	23	1. Al- Khoiriyah Rt 02 2. Ar Ridlo Rt 02 3. Al Ikhlas 4. Al Hikmah 5. As Siroj 6. An nawawi 7. Al Munawaroh 8. Nurul Huda 9. Babus Salam 10. Al Ishaq 11. Asy Syahid 12. Al Amin 13. Al Ikhlas 14. Al Asror 15. Hidayatul Mubtadiin 16. Ar Rohman 17. Al Salam 18. Al Hasimiyah 19. Nurul Jadid 20. Asy Syam'un 21. Ar Raui 22. Al Jalil 23. Darul Musthofa 24. Almuhsinin

**Source:** <http://kuwolu-malangkab.desa.id/demografi>

Ike Wanusmawatie and Shinta Fatimah Durrety

Cendana International Conference on Social and Political Science:

Global Knowledge Production from the Southern Region in Social Science 2024



Among the various education services mentioned, most are individually organized by the community. Consequently, these entities are either privately owned or under the ownership of individual or institutional foundations. The only school that is coordinated by the local education office is SDN I Kuwolu. The Malang District Health Office also coordinates the provision of health services through *Poskesdes*. In Zakiya (2024), there are basic needs services available, including health services such as the child and elderly *Posyandu* Banjarpanjang in Magetan Regency.

*Posyandu*, also known as Integrated Service Post, is a public health initiative implemented by the Indonesian government to enhance the well-being of mothers and children in both urban and rural regions. The program was initiated in 1984 and subsequently inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Indonesia in 1986 in Yogyakarta ([updesa.com/posyandu/](http://updesa.com/posyandu/)). *Posyandu* is a nationwide government program that is executed in every part of Indonesian villages.

Regarding legal services, research conducted by Wanusmawatie in 2022 and 2023, as well as Zakiya in 2024, have identified many services related to processing Identity Cards, Child Identity Cards, Certificate of Records, and Police matters. Nevertheless, it is not the village government that coordinates it, but rather the local government and the police. The village government solely facilitates the coordination of additional processing at authorized agencies. Meanwhile, the village administration functions solely as a middleman.

Other services provided include economic services such as village markets, local road infrastructure, village irrigation, and training in catfish cultivation and organic fertilizer for disadvantaged communities. Social and public facilities such as mosques/*mushollas*, boat parking services, and public toilets were also identified (Azis & Asmar, 2021; Firmansyah, 2023; Wanusmawatie et al., 2023, 2022; Zakiya, 2024). Village markets typically have a seasonal character, often referred to as a "surprise market," that emerges at specific times and on specific days. For instance, during the period when students from the boarding school arrive, villagers may organize a surprise market on a designated day. In reality, the responsibility for providing it does not lie with the village government, but rather with the local community's own efforts, such as the weekly market (Wanusmawatie, 2022). To provide aid and compensation to underprivileged communities through social support, as well as offering incentive assistance to Quran teachers (Zakiya, 2024). The mechanism employs the Family Hope Program (PKH) of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The direct provision of monetary aid in the hamlet is likewise under the jurisdiction of the central government. Therefore, when it comes to local affairs, the services provided differ: certain services are administered by the village administration, but they are limited in scope; other services are managed by higher levels of government and have a more significant influence; and some services are instigated by the community itself.

### **Delegated Authority**

The village government in Kuwolu Village is responsible for various government affairs related to public services, which are delegated to them by both the central government and the provinces and districts. These affairs include the central government's farmer group



empowerment program and the family hope program for the poor. Additionally, Kuwolu Village has implemented the Desa Siaga program, which involves the purchase of an alert car, the construction of a *Polindes* (village health center), and the empowerment of *Posyandu* (integrated health post) cadres. The village administration also participates in the allocation of Direct Cash Assistance provided by the central government, highlighting its significant role in executing central government initiatives at the local level.

According to Wanusmawatie (2022), one of the tasks allocated by the Malang District Government was the collection of Land and Building Tax (PBB). Every village official in both Kuwolu and Pandanajeng Villages conducts this collecting. Every village authority is required to fulfill this responsibility. Furthermore, *Desaku Tuntas* is a program initiated by the Population and Civil Registry Office (DISDUKCAPIL) and has been successfully executed in Kuwolu Village. This program facilitates the accomplishment of civil registration paperwork at the village level, eliminating the need for direct visits to the DISDUKCAPIL office. Similar incidents occurred in Pandanajeng Village (Wanusmawatie, 2022) and Kalirejo Village, Probolinggo District (Wanusmawatie, 2023).

### **Comparison of Previous Village Authority Implementation**

The execution of village authority based on regulations will be provided as a table. The regulations that serve as references to govern the village/village government include IGO 1906, IGOB 1938, and Osamu Seirei 27; Law No. 5/1979; Law No. 22/1999; Law No. 32/2004; and Law No. 6/2014. The table is as follows:



**Table 2. Development Of Village Government Authority In Term Of Public Services  
Based On Regulations**

No	Aspect	Pre-Independence Period		Post-Independence Period			
		Before Colonization	During colonialism	UU No. 5/1979	UU No. 22/1999	UU No. 32/2004	UU No 6/2014
1	Source of authority	Customary law	Strengthened by Dutch colonial law/Japanese rule	National law	Some customary laws are strengthened by national laws.	Some customary laws are strengthened by national laws.	Some customary laws are strengthened by national laws
2	Type of Authority	Unlimited breadth (not formalized) includes worldliness & spirituality	Limited to the field of government (worldly)/not mentioned explicitly.	Limited and not stated explicitly, it is only stated that the authority, rights and obligations of the village are determined & regulated by regional regulations (Perda)	Delimited & referred to in a firm (formal) manner: Existing authority based on origins - Authority which according to applicable regulations has not been implemented by the region & government - Assistance duties from the supra-village Government	Limited & stated expressly (formally): -Existing government affairs based on village origin rights. -District authority, whose arrangements are handed over to the village. - Assistance tasks from the supra-village government. -Other authorities handed over to the village (in accordance with the Law).	- Village origin rights - local village scale - assistance tasks - Other authorities regulated by statutory regulations
3	Implementation of Public Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Providing educational services for village children</li> <li>• Providing and managing places of worship &amp; religious ceremonies</li> <li>•Taking care of the maintenance and construction of roads, bridges,</li> </ul>	Providing vaccinations (Health) Taking care of the village barn Manage village credit Establish and manage village schools Pay village teachers Build and maintain	Dominant assisting duties	The origins are not visible Authorities that have not yet been implemented by the regional government have not yet been handed over Basic needs, legality; economic driving	- Origins not visible -Unclear implementation of authority diserahkan pengaturannya pada desa Public services are predominantly owned by regional and central governments	- The origins are not visible -Local scale types are more limited and do not have a broad impact. Layanan publik dominan dimiliki pemerintah daerah dan pusat Public

Ike Wanusmawatie and Shinta Fatimah Durrety

Cendana International Conference on Social and Political Science:

Global Knowledge Production from the Southern Region in Social Science 2024





		markets, irrigation projects, opening and maintaining graves	village infrastructure: roads, bridges, ditches, culverts, water channels, guard posts, rivers and village		infrastructure; family protection is less fortunate Public services are predominantly owned by regional and central government		services are predominantly owned by regional and central governments
4	Financing	Locally village revenue	Locally village revenue	Locally village revenue; upper government	Locally Village revenue, transfer income; upper government, others.	Locally Village revenue, transfer income; upper government others	Locally Village revenue, transfer income; upper government others

*Source: Proceed by Reseach (2024) from Wanusmawatie (2012); Nurcholish (2022)*

Upon examining the aforementioned table, it becomes evident that the village government affairs that were in close proximity to and very necessary for the community primarily occurred during the pre-independence era, specifically during and during the Dutch colonization. Nevertheless, they ceased to exist after the implementation of Law No.5/1979 regarding Village Administration. During the years following independence, particularly in the reform era, there were no notable alterations observed in the table. The village possesses normative and intrinsic authority based on its right of origin, its local scale, and its co-administration with the government above. However, the actual implementation by the village government includes:

- Collecting property taxes (Pajak Bumi Bangunan)
- Providing letters of endorsement for ID cards, family registration cards, birth certificates, relocation permits, etc.
- Executing projects from the Ministry of Villages and other Ministries/Institutions.
- Executing projects from district/city and provincial governments.
- Carry out orders from the sub-district head, regent, governor, and president.
- Provision of public goods and services that are close and needed by the community (Nurcholish 2022)

### **Opportunities for Villages to Implement Decentralization Within Cities and as Small Autonomous Regions**

Decentralization in cities is one type of public participation which is used as a way to bring public service delivery closer to local communities. The local authorities are giving decentralization to small government units within local government (Norton, 1994). This



strengthens by Smith (1985) which invites local authorities to address the decentralization of the decision-making process to the lowest level. The forms of decentralization in cities are the provision of administrative and political decentralization to the smallest administrative units in the area of local government. Effectiveness and democracy required a much more localized orientation within local government (Smith, 1985: 166). One of local government's most important roles is to reach the local people and to deliver basic services to assist them and improve their quality of life (Siddiqui 1994).

Decentralization in cities or the neighborhood decentralization is one of kind of public participation for greater involvement of local communities who often voice, needs and interests are not delivered through the existing political parties and government presence thereon or sub national government. The aim is including neighborhood to articulate their needs bringing power closer to the people, and drawing a wider range of participants into the political systems (Smith, 1985:166). If Norton (1994) uses the terminology of Decentralization in cities, previously Smith (1985) has explained this in terms of the Neighborhood Decentralization further strengthened by Burn, Hambleton and Hogget (1994).

Below is a picture of two patterns of neighborhood government. The first pattern is more emphasis on decentralized management. Thus, the focus is how to make public services more professional, promotes the value of efficiency and effectiveness, while the second one dominant pattern develop democratic values (**Table 3**).

What are the prospects for local administrations in rural areas in Indonesia? Essentially, the village administration in Indonesia shares parallels with the decentralized democracy concept, particularly in cities. Sullivan, (1992) in "Local Government and Community in Java" explained that Indonesia has long had government-based neighborhoods. There are *Rukun Warga* and *Rukun Tetangga* in rural local institution as rural neighborhood unit, while *Rukun Lingkungan* and Block in urban local institution as urban neighborhood unit. This neighborhood unit/group established during the Japanese occupation known as *Tonarigumi*. *Tonarigumi* is a collection of household (usually five-ten household) initially termed *goningumi*, and then grouping became neighbourhood unit (*tonarigumi*), number of which were combined to form neighborhood (*cho*) and villages (*buraku*) (Yazaki, 1968; Steiner, 1965).

The Village Government or Village lacks minimal autonomy. This can be expressed in the future. It is necessary to provide a clear definition of autonomy. Currently, the Village Government lacks autonomy in the context of local self-government and instead leans towards indigenous autonomy. Regrettably, the pursuit of indigenous autonomy is currently absent. Subsidiarity, on the other hand, lacks capability and encompasses a wide range of areas.



**Table 3. Pattern of Neighbourhood Government According to Neighbourhood Decentralisation**

Aspect	Focus on Structural Efficiency Value	Focus on Local Democracy Value
1	2	3
1. Status of organization	Subordinate of local authorities	Autonomous within boundaries
2. Structure of organization	Simple and modern	More complex
3. Composition of organization structure	1. Manager as chief of neighbourhood 2. Staff officer 3. Neighbourhood forums	1. Standing neighbourhood committee is the upper structures of neighbourhood government 2. Urgency sub committee 3. Chief executive neighbourhood and officer structure 4. Neighbourhood managers under chief executive neighbourhood
4. Status of organization	Subordinate of local authorities	Autonomous within boundaries
5. Status of organization	Subordinate of local authorities	Autonomous within boundaries
6. Structure of organization	Simple and modern	More complex
7. Composition of organization structure	4. Manager as chief of neighbourhood 5. Staff officer 6. Neighbourhood forums	5. Standing neighbourhood committee is the upper structures of neighbourhood government 6. Urgency sub committee 7. Chief executive neighbourhood and officer structure 8. Neighbourhood managers under chief executive neighbourhood
8. Number of staff per office	Slight and limited	Many and not restricted



Aspect 1	Focus on Structural Efficiency Value 2	Focus on Local Democracy Value 3
9. Type of neighbourhood office	Mostly artificial (new-build), standardised, open plan format	Various types: new, build and conversion. No standard design
10. Other neighbourhood structures	None	exist
11. Democratic structures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Neighbourhood forums established alongside all neighbourhood offices.</li> <li>2. Advisory and consultative bodies</li> <li>3. Limited delegated powers.</li> <li>4. Energetic efforts to widen public involvement in neighbourhood decision making</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Neighbourhood committees</li> <li>2. Fully delegated powers</li> <li>3. Consisting of locally-elected councillors. A variety of neighbourhood</li> </ol>
12. Neighbourhood management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Neighbourhood coordinator, plus three heads of professional service</li> <li>- Generalist neighbourhood manager, twinning of 16 neighbourhoods for purposes of management</li> </ul>	Generalist neighbourhood and multiservice

Source: Adaptation from Practise of Neighbourhood Decentralisation and Basic Fiture of Decentralization in Islington and Tower Hamlet. Burn et all, 1994: 113

In the past, villages or village administrations had little independence in managing their own families. Nevertheless, the independence of this region has gradually diminished since the Dutch and Japanese colonizers came, and this trend continued during the New Order and Reform periods. The scope of autonomy was restricted to customs, and the idea of subsidiarity did not facilitate the villages' direct access to governmental services. In order to effectively execute the subsidiarity concept, it is crucial to have a well-functioning village apparatus in place. The capacity problem will persist unless the village government ceases to function as a quasi-governmental entity.

Nurcholish (2022) suggests that village governments should transform into small autonomous territories with distinct features, as outlined in article 18 and the explanation of the 1945 Constitution, in conjunction with article 18B paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (NRI). Recognition and respect are bestowed to the old framework, wherein the council or *morokaki* was elected by the populace. Alternatively, the village head might be elected either from within the council members or from individuals who are not part of the council. Council members possess portfolios and designate administrators. The government affairs that can be recommended for regulation and management, and are closely related to





public services, include:

- a. Management and provision of early childhood education (PAUD) services
- b. Provision of Health services (Village Polyclinic)
- c. Providing village irrigation (tertiary irrigation)
- d. Provision of village financial services (micro banks)
- e. Provision of agricultural production facilities (seeds, fertilizer, medicine, plow tractors, etc.)
- f. Provision of village infrastructure (village utilities)
- g. Provision of economic infrastructure
- h. Provision of security and order services
- i. Providing clean water services
- j. Provision of waste services
- k. Provision of sanitation services (Nurcholish, 2022)

Now it is only the political will of policymakers at the central level. Will it continue to let the village forever depend and become the "messenger" of the government over it? or makes autonomy, that is, satisfying its needs by participating in the provision of public goods and services according to the needs and initiatives of its community. The limitation of this study is the time of data collection. With the abundance of secondary data that must be studied and understood, this study is considered insufficient to explore and compile properly. Therefore, this study needs to be continued for a longer time.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Ultimately, this research has yielded significant understanding regarding the present condition of village government. This research demonstrates that the existing village government model or status is insufficient in addressing the requirements of village inhabitants, particularly in terms of delivering public services. The lack of resources and capacity at the village level is the main reason for this insufficiency.

The research findings suggest that enhancing village autonomy is crucial for enhancing the provision of public services and promoting the welfare of the community. This aligns with the notion of decentralization, which prioritizes local self-governance and effective delivery of services. The present condition of village administration underscores the necessity for policymakers to reassess prevailing models and investigate alternative approaches that grant villages greater autonomy as minor regions within a larger urban governance framework. The paper additionally provides numerous suggestions for further research and policy-making. Subsequent investigations should priorities evaluating the influence of increased village autonomy on the results of service delivery and the well-being of the community. Furthermore, policymakers ought to contemplate modifying existing village governance models in order to enhance self-governance, optimize resource distribution, and bolster the competence of village authorities in efficiently handling their own affairs. These ideas can potentially enhance the



ongoing discussion on decentralization and village autonomy by providing practical insights that can guide future policy.

## ANKNOWLEDGEMENT

We extend our sincere gratitude to Universitas Brawijaya for their support, and to our advisors for their invaluable guidance. Special thanks to the proofreaders, typists, and suppliers who contributed to the research process. Your support has been greatly appreciated.

## REFERENCES

- Azis, I., & Asmar, A. R. (2021). Pelaksanaan Kewenangan Desa Berdasarkan Hak Asal Usul Di Desa Galesong Kabupaten Takalar. *Alauddin Law Development Journal*, 3(2), 379–385. <https://doi.org/10.24252/aldev.v3i2.15243>
- Daulay, N. S. (2021). Implementasi Kewenangan Desa Berdasarkan Hak Asal Usul Dalam Pelestarian Adat Di Desa Gunung Sahilan Kecamatan Gunung Sahilan Kabupaten Kampar.
- Firmansyah, F. (2023). Pelaksanaan Kewenangan Desa Berdasarkan Hak Asal-Usul Dan Kewenangan Lokal Berskala Desa:(Studi Di Desa Kaboro Kecamatan Lambitu, Kabupaten Bima). *MIMBAR ADMINISTRASI FISIP UNTAG Semarang*, 20(2), 60–69.
- Malawi, N. (2024). Analysis Of Decentralization Policy Implementation In Improving The Quality Of Public Services In Rural Areas. *International Journal of Economics and Management Research*, 3(2), 166–180. <https://doi.org/10.55606/ijemr.v3i2.215>
- Muluk, M. (2023). Desentralisasi Tata Kelola Pemerintahan: Perspektif Kontemporer. *Selaras Media Kreasindo*.
- Muluk, M. K., Indraswari, F. V., Wiswayana, W., & Yunita, P. (2024). Governing Sister City: Global Collaboration and Local Operation. *Lex Localis: Journal of Local Self- Government*, 22(2).
- Norton, A. (1994). *International handbook of local and regional government: A comparative analysis of advanced democracies*. UK: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.
- Nurcholis, H. (2016). Pemerintah Desa: “Unit Pemerintahan Palsu” dalam Sistem Administrasi Negara Republik Indonesia (Kasus Desa Jabon Mekar, Parung, Kabupaten Bogor). *Politica*, 5(1), 79–94.
- Nurcholis, H. (2024a). ANGKA KEMISKINAN. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK558907/>
- Nurcholis, H. (2024b). PUBLIC, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, AND PUBLIC GOODS. Seminar Asosiasi Ilmuwan Administrasi Negara.
- Nurcholish, H. (2021). Pelayanan Publik. Webinar Asosiasi Ilmuwan Administrasi Negara.
- Ranggawidjaja, R. (2013). Otonomi Desa Dalam Cengkraman Kebijakan Pemerintah Pusat dan Daerah. Dalam Susi Dwi Harijanti (Eds.), *Satu Dasawarsa Perubahan UUD 1945*. Bandung.: Pusat Studi Kebijakan Negara Fakultas Hukum Universitas Padjadjaran.
- Smith, B. C. (1985). *Decentralization: The Territorial Dimension of the State*. G. Allen & Unwin.
- Sullivan, J. (1992). *Local government and community in Java : an urban case-study Statement of Responsibility*. Oxford University Press Publication Year.



- Sutarmanto, S. (2020). TATA KELOLA TANAH KAS DESA BERDASARKAN KEWENANGAN HAK ASAL-USUL DAN KEWENANGAN LOKAL BERSKALA DESA (Studi di Desa Bangunjiwo, Kecamatan Kasihan, Kabupaten Bantul).
- Wanusmawatie, I. (2012). KEBIJAKAN INTERAKTIF PADA IMPLEMENTASI KEWENANGAN DESA Ike Wanusmawatie. *Jurnal Ilmiah Administrasi Publik*, 13(1).
- Wanusmawatie, I. (2018). Complexity of Village Government Systems. University of Brawijaya.
- Wanusmawatie, I. (2019). MENAKAR PELAYANAN PUBLIK DI LEVEL DESA: Sebuah Analisis Berfikir Sistem dari Dua Studi Kasus. In *Menata Desa: Bunga Rampai Pemikiran*.
- Wanusmawatie, I., & Durrety, S. F. (2024). Pengurangan Kemiskinan Perdesaan Berbasis System Thinking. Seminar Nasional AsIAN 2024 "Transformasi Birokrasi Menuju Indonesia Emas 2045).
- Wanusmawatie, I., Durrety, S. F., Ferdianzah, H. J., & Khasanah, U. R. (2023). Strategic Analysis of Village Government Performance In Governance: Study in Kalirejo Village, Probolinggo Regency. (Unpublished).
- Wanusmawatie, I., Durrety, S. F., Prasetyo, E. H., & Sriyono, M. E. E. (2022). Tata Kelola Urusan Pemerintahan Desa: Antara Harapan dan Realita (Studi di Desa Kuwolu dan Pandanajeng Kabupaten Malang). (Unpublished).
- Wanusmawatie, I., & Ulum, M. C. (2021). *Dinamika Perdesaan: Isu Strategis dan Rekomendasi Kebijakan*. UB Press.
- Wasistiono, S. (2019). Sejarah, Kedudukan, serta Prospek Perangkat Desa di Indonesia. *Jurnal Ilmiah Wahana Bhakti Praja*, 9(1), 1–16.
- Wibowo, H. P., & Mursyidah, L. (2022). Service Quality for Village Government. *Indonesian Journal of Public Policy Review*, 18, 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.21070/ijppr.v18i0.1212>
- ZAKIYA, K. H. (2024). PELAYANAN ADMINISTRASI KEPENDUDUKAN DESA BERSIH MELAYANI (PAKDE BAYAN) (Studi Di Desa Banjarpanjang Kecamatan Ngariboyo Kabupaten Magetan). Unpublished.