The Significance of Village Data for Village Development: Students’ Community Development Program Experience (Kuliah Kerja Lapangan) – Universities Contribution to Village Development

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Abstract

It is common knowledge that development planning at the village level is rarely based on valid and updated data. Students and lecturers in the Public Administration Department Parahyangan Catholic University, who have been working with villages in West Java Province for several decades encountered situations to support that argument. It is difficult to obtain valid and updated data to use as evidence in developing initiatives and programs for the village development. Students’ Community Development Program (Kuliah Kerja Lapangan henceforth KKL themed Universities Contribution to Village Development was initiated with the goal of improving the quality of data in rural areas (Garut District) by collecting and updating village data, developing the capacity of village government leaders and staff to collect and update village data on their own. This paper discusses three major works that the Students’ Community Development Program (KKN) themed Universities Contribution to Village Development have made. The three areas relate to 1) elaboration of the logic of the program; (2) discussion of the process of data collection and analysis of data in the three villages; and (3) discussion of output and outcomes of the program. Research action, as Lewin argues, has three goals: to advance knowledge; to improve a concrete situation; and to improve behavioral science methodology. This paper presents a case study that shows the existence of a problem in a community, and concrete actions taken to solve it through the application of knowledge acquired through Community Development Program (KKN) experience of Universitas Membangun Desa.

Keywords: data, community development program by students, universitas membangun desa, village development
INTRODUCTION

Law No. 6 / 2014 on Village administration, Chapter IV, article 18 lays down the legal foundation for village administration (desa) as the authority charged with the responsibility of administering village affairs through the implementation of development and empowerment of communities under its jurisdiction. The law stipulates that the village administration is vested with the authority to implement development, empower rural communities based on community initiatives, and preserve village customs, norms and culture. The law shifts the focus of village development from the central government to local governments. To that end, the coming into force of the law, puts village governments on to the forefront of not only village development but by extension, that of the country as a whole. The role village governments will play in the country’s development in future is enhanced by the establishment of the village fund (dana desa), which is financed by the National budget (APBN).

Nonetheless, being vested with the authority to conduct village affairs and availability of village funding may not necessarily lead to significant improvement in village development. It is common knowledge that village administrations in Indonesia from Aceh to Papua suffer from shortage of requisite human resource capacity and skills. It is a problem that has to a large extent undermined improvement in village governance and development. Low quality human resource capacity and skills is reflected in the lack of good basic village data. In villages, basic village data such as the general profile of the village (monograph), demographics and social economy status the village population is often incorrect and often out of date. Even data that is as important as accountability report of village cooperatives is often invalid and based on extrapolations of past data points rather than collected data (Sugianingsih & Ilosa, 2013, p. 55). As if the above problems are not enough, village government leaders & staffs have low government capacity and skills in record management and accounting (book-keeping) of all village economic activities (Sidik, 2015 p.126). Consequently, village development activities are rarely based on reliable and updated data. In other words, policies, programs and activities are not based on reliable and accurate data, which has led to inaccuracies and inconsistencies in national government programs. One evidence of that are the recurring inaccuracies that have beset the distribution of various government assistance programs such as the cash transfer program.

To that end, the need for valid and up to date data is imperative at the village level. Several regulations have been enacted to address the problem, which among others include:

1. Home Affairs Ministry Regulation No. 12/ 2007 on Guidelines for Preparing and Utilization of village profile data;
2. Home Affairs Ministry Regulation No. 13 / 2012 on village monograph
3. Home Affairs Ministry Regulation No. 81/ 2015 on villages development evaluation (villages and hamlets)

Village Data covers various aspects that include general data (data on social, economic, law and order, disaster and territorial); data on village administration personnel; data on village authority; data on village finances (village revenues, village expenditures, village financing and wealth of the village); data on village institutions; data on families; data on village potential; data on village development; and data on village monitoring instruments. These data are very important as the basis for conducting development planning.

In this paper, authors elucidate the contribution of Community Development Program by Students (KKL) Universitas Membangun Desa toward creating the capacity of the villages to collect reliable and up to date data that is vital for village development. The project was co-funded by the department of Public Administration, Parahyangan Catho-
lic University and KOMPAK. As Isobell et al. (2016) argue, participatory action research seeks to improve real-world settings and enhance quality of life by applying research-generated knowledge. Community Development Program by Students (Kuliah Kerja Lapangan) Universitas Membangun Desa is a participatory action research by nature.

The program which primarily focused on data collection, was conducted by students who are enrolled in Community Development Program Course that has 3 credit units. Specifically, this article describes the data collection and analysis processes conducted in the three villages, and output and outcomes of the program.

**Theoretical Framework – the Role of the University in Community Development**

A university, as an organization that provides advanced education and knowledge makes substantial direct and indirect contribution to community development. Moreover, the role of a university is not limited to serving as a center of human resource development, which is vital for national building efforts (Goddard and Chatterton, 1999), but through its involvement in research and community services, it makes substantial contribution to local community development. Moreover, on a general note, the role of a university in the community can be equated to that of private companies in that it is expected to contribute to the wellbeing of the society in areas it conducts its activities. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) today serves a medium that companies use to contribute to improving the delivery of public services and goods for the community. CSR had today become an obligation for every organization, both public and private, state and not state, such as a private University. CSR entails three aspects of local community development inter-alia: economic, socio-cultural and environmental development (Elkington, 2004).

Keanne and Allison (1999) agree that institutions of higher education serve regional development in three different ways. First, the existence of a university in an area generates economic benefit that arise from an increase in the population, higher demand for housing, increase in employment opportunities, increase in spending and other spillovers. Secondly, higher education contributes additional benefits that are linked to the growth of the ‘knowledge economy, specifically in generating value added information. This contribution has both tangible and intangible benefits. Colon (2005) argues that a university transfers knowledge to businesses and wider community through the skills acquired by its graduates and to businesses in particular through contract research, collaborative research, consultancy, intellectual property and licensing agreements. This transfer increases both the economic and social returns from public investment. Thirdly, the learning community within which a higher education institution exists can provide a foundation for flexible and innovative responses to a changing local economy. In this respect, Colon (2005) believes universities can provide curricula and courses which are more responsive to the needs of the local economy and equip students with the knowledge and skills that are tailored to the needs of local employers.

Kim, et al. (2006) contend that the success of a university may depend on how well it maintains a mutually beneficial relationship with the local community. The existence of a university in close proximity with the local community, implies its survival and development will be depend much on the local community. Many students that attend the university may come from the local community and after graduation become employees who contribute to the development of the community.

Considering the various roles universities playing in communities, the program of Students Community Development Services aims at enhancing village development in rural areas not only through providing education for those cannot afford it, but also contribute to improvement in livelihood of rural population by sending stu-
dents who are in their final years to work alongside the village community.

The Indonesian government has conducted similar programs since the 80’s and 90’s. This was achieved by sending members of Indonesian military to work with and within the community, specifically in remote islands that lie along international borders with other countries. The programs were based on the idea and logic that villages need agents of change, who serve as drivers of growth and instill values and spirit of working together to achieve village development.

It is under this same logic that Students of the Public Administration Department, Parahyangan Catholic University have been conducting Community Development Services (KKL) for several decades. The 2016 KKL program was jointly funded by Parahyangan Catholic University and KOMPAK – an Australia – Indonesia Government Partnership to reduce poverty in Indonesia and re-designed to be in line with the goals of Universitas Membangun Desa initiated by KOMPAK to provide assistance to rural areas. The program is an alternative form of involving not traditional actors to foster sustainable village development.

**DISCUSSION AND RESULT**

This section elaborates the Students’ Community Development Program (Kuliah Kerja Lapangan) – code named Universitas Membangun Desa of the department of Public Administration – Parahyangan Catholic University. The program contribution to rural (village) development was in improving on the quality of data available as well as process that ensures such data is updated regularly. The programs is a collaboration of the department of Public Administration Department Program, Parahyangan Catholic University and KOMPAK. The program, in its original form, constitutes an integral component of curriculum in the Public Administration Department, Parahyangan Catholic University. The program is a compulsory course, which under graduate students are required to take in their final year. During the program, students stay and work together with village residents for 40 days. Thus, the Community Development Program by Students (KKL) code named Universitas Membangun Desa, is an extension and improvement of the now traditional community development program as it has an innovative element, which in this case is an endeavor to increase awareness of the importance of quality and updated data for village development and also the improvement in the enhanced capacity of village administration staffs. The program, is also different from traditional KKL programs due to its efforts to advocate for improved ownership of the program at higher tier administration level (sub district and district level).

**The Rationale of the Program**

The program focuses on the Collecting and Updating village data in three villages (Mekarluyu, Mekarwangi & Sudalarang) in Sukawening Sub-District. There are factors underlie the rationale for the program. First, the role of the university in village development. Secondly, the fact that quality and updated data is urgently needed and required for village development planning. Thirdly, the application of the knowledge acquired during the program toward improving rural government.

Demographics data are important for different tiers of administrations in general, and village administration in particular. This is because village administration is the closest to the village community. To that end, it is understandable and recommended that the village administration must have the most reliable demographic data. Quality data at the village level implies that data is available for planning and development at higher levels with a good quality and reliable. Villages form the most important and largest number of administrative units in the country’s administrative system. There are three advantages of having in place quality demographic data. These include (1) enable the village Government in identifying all aspects of development problems and in map-
ping the needs of the community; (2) serve as vital evidence and documentation for development planning; and (3) serve as important source of determining target groups of any development and targeted assistance programs.

In reality, availability of data may not often reflects or represents the true situation of the context and situation on the ground. Harsono (2014, 138) for example shows that data on welfare of community members if used to determine poverty incidence, fails to represent the true state of poverty in the community in rural areas. This is due to the fact that poverty in rural areas may be masked by the existence of social capital.

Nonetheless, all policies and programs that are formulated by the government must identify problems in society, root causes of such problems, and needs of the community. Availability of reliable data, especially demographics provides an accurate and comprehensive portrayal of community problems and needs, which serves as vital inputs in identifying problems and needs of the community. Absence of accurate and reliable data may undermine government effectiveness of programs and policies. An example that illustrates this is data on age groups in a community which the government can use to enable the village government to know the percentage of its population that falls under the productive age group. Knowledge of this, coupled with available data on the number of people who fall under the productive age groups who are unemployed, can help the government determine the programs that are effective in reducing or even eradicating unemployment. Tackling unemployment of the productive age population, creates income generation that stimulates village economic growth. Village data on the number of people categorized as poor is one of the factors that determines whether or not, poverty eradication programs that are implemented are effective in the long term. (Rachman, 2014:155; Zuchainah & Apriliani, 2010, 5-6).

Ministry of Home affairs regulation No. 114 / 2014 on village administrations, obliges all village administrations in Indonesia to develop a rational village development planning document. To do that, village administrations must have accurate, reliable and up-to-date data. Based on three decades of experience working with village government leaders and staff in West Java Province, there is little doubt that one of the problems most, if not all, is the absence of quality development planning reports that are based on accurate and reliable data.

There is little doubt that availability of reliable data is a pre requisite for efforts to enhance accuracy of targeting of program and policy beneficiaries. Research results on the assessment of cash transfer programs such as (rice for the poor) or Bantuan Tunai Langsung/BLT ‘direct cash transfer, showed that program implementation was characterized by woeful targeting problems in many areas. In light of that, poor quality of data that was used in formulating and implementing such programs and policies, created new form of unfairness because some member of the community who were supposed to be the program beneficiaries were left out.

The Method of the Program

Having established the vital importance of quality data for village development, the research team embarked on implementing the community development program that focused on collecting and updating village data. The implementation of the program was achieved through students’ community development service activities (Kuliah Kerja Lapangan). Nonetheless, considering the fact students could only stay in the village for a maximum of 40 days to conduct data collection and updating activities, follow up activities were arranged that included seminars, FGDs and technical workshops for village administration heads and staff under the guidance and direction of a team of lecturers from the Department of Public Administration – Parahyangan Catholic University.

In accordance to plan, the program comprised several steps as elucidated below:
The first step was the preparation. The aim of the step was to map all relevant regulations on village data. The phase consisted of various methods such as analysis of policies and regulations of the ministry of home affairs, and national and regional development planning boards. The result of this activity was the knowledge and understanding of all relevant regulations that relate to village data. The next step was to select the villages where to implement program code-named the Universities-contribution to village-development program. In addition, the research team finalized arrangements to obtain work and administration permits to ensure that the collection and updating of data was in line with existing national and local government laws and regulations. Moreover, the process of obtaining the administrative permit served as an opportunity for the team to introduce and socialize the Students’ Community Development Program (Kuliah Kerja Lapangan) – Universities’ contribution to village development program to the sub district and district level. Besides, in the wake of enhanced awareness of the program, the task of advocating for the need to improve on quality of village data, along with expected the output and outcomes of the program, paved way for Garut district government to issue a draft regulation on the urgency of collecting and updating village data.

Second step involved the developing a questionnaire that was used in the process of collecting village data. The team had to make sure that all relevant questions on collecting data in accordance with regulation on village data, were included on the questionnaire. Subsequently, students used the questionnaire to collect and update data from all households in the three selected villages (Mekarwangi Village, Mekarluyu Village & Sudalarang Village). The questionnaire was developed in such manner that made it easy for students to register answers and respond to questions from informants. Data collected was later recorded in an excel spreadsheet file that had been prepared by the team beforehand.

The third step entailed conducting a technical meeting with students. The purpose of the meeting was to establish common understanding about the work that students were supposed to do, and how to do it. To that end, this step involved equipping students with technical knowledge about the questionnaire, expected responses, and type of the data to obtain from informants using questions in the questionnaire. The importance of the technical meeting meant that attendance was compulsory for all students. Fourth step involved the conduct of preliminary survey. The preliminary survey was necessary prior to students actually going to village households to collect data. This step, in other words, was aimed at giving students the opportunity to try out the questionnaire to determine whether it had the expected validity in collecting village data.

The fifth step was sending students to the three selected the villages (Mekarwangi, Mekarluyu and Sudalarang) in Sukawening Sub-District, Garut District, West Java Province to conduct the survey. Students stayed in the selected three villages for 40 days. During their stay, students conducted a household survey that covered thousands households (3462 people in Sudalarang Village, 4238 in Mekarluyu village, and 2749 people in Mekarwangi Village). Subsequently, students recorded the data in an excel file, under the supervision of lecturers of the department of Public Administration. Data cleaning process followed, which took many hours before it was done. Data cleaning process unveiled missing data in the three villages that were surveyed. Subsequently, students had to conduct another survey, this time around, involving households with missing data. With the completion of the second survey, village collection was complete, paving way for data analysis process that made use of SPSS statistics program package. And finally the data analysis were conducted by the lecturers.

Step six, constituted the innovative aspect to students’ Community Development Program (Kuliah Kerja Lapangan) – themed Universities contribution to village development. The aim of the step was to enhance the
capacity of village administration to collect and update data. The step was implemented by convening seminars and technical workshops that involved the participation of village government leaders and staff who are responsible for updating data on demographics. The seminars and technical workshops were conducted in each of the three villages in turn.

**Village Data Collection and Updating – A lesson learned**

Working on village data collection has provided students invaluable experience in working with the village community and village governments. Moreover, the conduct of the activity in each village served as a source of insight into the characteristics of the village itself. The following section highlights key findings of the program.

First, considering the reality that most aspects of Indonesian culture are oral hence there is a lack of not documentation written form, there is a lot of missing data in the collected data. This was due to the problem that members of households in villages covered by the survey could not recollect answers to some of the questions on the questionnaire. Data on land or property ownership was the most difficult to collect. The difficulty arose not only from the fact that informants could not remember answers to questions that were posed to them, but also because of their reluctance to disclose data related to land and property out of fear that it would be used against them for taxation purposes. This explained why many farmers claimed not to own land, but merely serving as hired labor on land that belonged to other richer people who were living elsewhere. To overcome the problem, the program team, requested the support of higher administration officials (agencies in Garut District). Consequently, household members were more open and willing to disclose information on land and property ownership.

Secondly, working with village communities requires flexibility and endurance. The study team faced the reality that collecting all the data required would have been extremely difficult, time consuming and costly. To that end, the team decided to limit the data that was collected to demographic information. Questions on village demographics was in question No.1 to No. 22 on the questionnaire. To simplify data collection, data collection on demographics was synchronized with Form 1-01 (demographic data). Another consideration in limiting village data that was collected related to resources the team had its disposal to conduct the exercise. Collecting all village data and update it, would have stretched both manpower and financial resources the team had mobilized for the exercise.

Thirdly, working with the village community meant that the program team had to secure the support, facilitation and trust of higher tier administration levels (sub-district administration head). In doing so, it also has an added advantage – expanding ownership of the program from the village government to sub district government. Based on prior experience in conducting students’ Community Development Program (Kuliah Kerja Lapangan), entry point into any village requires authorization and approval of the head of the Sub-District administration. To that end, it is important that the team engaged with sub district head that involved articulation of the goal and objectives of the program relating to improving the capacity of village governments not only to collect quality data but also update it regularly. This would contribute to improvement in problem identification and formulation, program planning and development. Consequently, program ownership increased.

**The Output of the Program**

The formulation and implementation of the program was aimed at achieving certain output and outcomes. Upon completion of the program, several program output and outcomes were realized. The first outcome was to encourage village administration to make use of the data that was collected and updated. Moreover, spillover effects from the success of the program, were manifested in a request from other village administra-
tions to the program team to replicate the program in their areas. The request attests to the fact that the program outcome is relevant and vitally important for village development planning, making it a necessity for all development minded administration officials.

Nonetheless, the output of the Universities contribution to village development is not only limited to data available, more importantly such data must be of the required quality, latest, and relevant. Moreover, program team was cognizant of the need to establish capacity to collect and update data in the villages that were surveyed. This was deemed necessary to ensure that upon completion of the program activities, village head and administration staff would sustain data collection and updating activities in future. To achieve that, the program team devised and conducted seminars and technical workshops on quality data collection and updating skills in each of the three villages in turn.

The program generated three key output

1. Availability of quality and updated data on demography and rural development (based on the regulation of the Ministry of Home Affairs No.12/2007). The data were collected based on census method. The process of collecting data in the three villages offered students the opportunity to interact, cooperate and collaborate with village administration staff and village community. The data collected entailed population size, sex ratio, number of people of productive age employment profile, and status of ownership of residency documents, health status, education status and socio economy status of the members of households surveyed. Besides, other vital village data were also collected that included data on plantations, forestry, livestock, fisheries, mining, water resources, environmental quality and tourism, institutional resources, government institutions, social institutions, political parties, economic institutions, educational institutions, customary institutions and security institutions.

2. The second output of the program involved the delivery of the seminar entitled ‘Village Data Urgency in Rural Development’. The seminar was delivered to leaders and village government staff in the three villages, with the collaboration of the district Civil Registry Office, district revenue office, and district development planning agency of Garut District. The main aim of the seminar was to raise the awareness of village government leaders and staff of the importance of quality and updated data for rural planning, implementation and development. To that end, the seminar served as an opportunity for the program team to forge cooperation and partnership with the three Garut district agencies above. In addition, during the seminar, the Head of Sukawening Sub-District underscored the importance of quality and updated data for effective village administration planning and development initiatives. The seminar also served as an opportunity for a representative of Garut Regional Revenue Board to elucidate on the role quality data play in determining the number of taxable objects, making it crucial for any district efforts to increase village revenue. Finally, representative of Garut Regional Development Planning Board had the opportunity to outline the advantages of quality and updated data for village administration leadership and staff in improving analysis and planning of village development initiatives. Meanwhile, the same venue offered an opportunity for a representative of Sukalaksana Village, which was an exemplary partner for the program team during the community development service phase, to explain the benefits that were generated from the partnership forged between village community and program team. In his remarks, the representative highlighted the innovative nature of program initiatives in general and data collection and updating activities in particular, considering them as engines of village development in future.
3. The third output of the program entailed the delivery of the technical workshop to
village leaders and village staff (right to the heads of neighborhoods (Rukun
Tetangga/RT and Rukun Warga/RW) in the three villages. The aim of the tech-
nical workshop was to raise the capacity of village leadership and staff to have
what is required to conduct data collection and updating activities, independent-
ly and ensure that such data was of requisite and updated. In addition, another aim
of the workshop which was intended for heads of neighborhoods (RTs and RWs)
who are charged with the responsibility of updating demographic data, comprised
delivery of training materials that relate to collecting, processing, presenting and
updating village data.

Outcomes of the Program

This section outlines the short term outcomes that are a consequence of the three
outputs, which have been elaborated above. The following is an elaboration of the out-
comes.

1. The increase in awareness of village government staff and the heads of neighbor-
hoods (RT/RW) about the importance of valid and updated village data. From the
interactions and interviews with them, they claimed that thanks to their involve-
ment in the program activities they were cognizant of the importance of updating
data particularly on demographics as an important step that village government
staffs had not considered relevant prior to the program. Upon updating data, village
administration staff have the knowledge about the precise number of the popula-
tion and other related information. This knowledge (data) is the basis for any pro-
grams that can support community such as distribution of cash transfer program.

2. The improvement in the ability of village government staff and the heads of neigh-
borhoods (RT/RW) in data recording. Prior to the program, village administration
and neighborhood heads collected, processed, presented and updated data in
ways that were not systematic, making it prone to errors. Upon completing the
technical workshop on data collection, processing, presentation and updating, village administration staff and neighbor-
hood heads acquired skills to update data and use data using data processing appli-
cation such as Microsoft excel which was prepared and made available by the pro-
gram team. In addition, the team identified an increase in the capacity of women
working on population data and village data. This was due to the fact that women
represented some heads of RT/RW neighborhoods in capacity building training
exercises. Thus, women benefited from unintended outcomes from the program.

3. The increase in the possibility of cooperation between village administrations and
Garut district Civil Records Registry Office in collecting social demographics on
the population. The district Civil Registry Office faces constraints in collecting
and updating demographic data (using census method) due to paucity of human
resources, and limited capacity of internet network. The limited internet network
at the village level often leads to breakdown in the online data updating process.
That means that whenever village government staffs collected new data, it could
not be sent directly to Garut Regional Civil Registry Office. Consequently,
there was marked difference in the quality of demographic data at the district level
and that at the village level. While data at the village level was up to date, that at the
district level was not, causing a mismatch. The implication of that was the limited access of the village population to
democratic data and services at the Garut district administration civil records regis-
tration offices. The implementation of the program has been able to solve the prob-
lem. In light of that, the Garut Regional Civil Registry Office offered the team the
opportunity to cooperate with it to collect data in all sub districts that lie under its
jurisdiction. This is an offer, the modal-
ities of which the team is considering to
discuss in future
4. The increase in the quality of village data which students from other universities can use in planning to conduct a similar programs that are tailored toward contributing to accelerating village and rural development.

**Long Term Outcomes**

The fact that the implementation of the program lasted for just a year, makes the task of identifying long term outcomes that arise from output difficult. Ideally, the collection of data and the updating of the data within a year, can pave the way for measuring long term outcome of the exercise in the subsequent year and beyond. Nonetheless, the following is an elucidation of the expected long term outcomes of the program

1. Enhanced skills of village leadership and staff in ensuring sustainable availability of quality and updated village data. Nonetheless, achieving that will depend on the willingness of village administrations to continue to implement the program, and ability of the program team to ensure that the capacity of village administration to collect and update data are sustained. Moreover, village administration must receive the support in all forms to ensure that capacity development in collecting and updating village data is not only maintained but also enhanced in line with future requirements. The expectation in program implementation stimulate data driven development initiatives that will contribute to village development in future.

2. The availability of quality data will enable village administration in the three villages to make better decisions on village development initiatives. Specifically, availability of quality data will enhance village development planning process during discussions on village development plans. Allowing the program team to observe program implementation in the long term will enable it to identify the impact of the quality data on village program formulation and implementation, identify data that are needed but not available, and the overall impact of data on decision making concerning village development initiatives. Availability of quality data implies enhanced capacity not only to identify problems villages, but also better still, to formulate and implement effective solutions to such problems. Quality data creates the capacity to monitor and evaluate the performance of village development initiatives. Thus, quality data will ensure that programs implemented by village administrations are based on achieving highest value for money spent. Besides, availability of quality village data will enable village heads to determine and gauge aspirations of voters, which they must fulfill in developments programs they implement. It is also worth noting that availability of quality data will help to solve the problem of poor strategic developments that is rampant today in almost all village administrations in Indonesia.

3. Availability of quality village data will lay the foundation of effective and efficient use of village funds in future. Today, villages are at the center of development, with the existence of village fund expected to serve as a stimulus for accelerated village and rural development. Nonetheless, lack of quality human resources and data at the village level, have resulted in the reality that village funds disbursed by the central government has so far failed to translate into expected village development and betterment of social welfare of rural citizens. The allocation of village funds of more than Rp.1 billion rupiah per year per village, has instead sparked off confusion and has the potential to foment disruption in the administration of village governments. There is evidence that some village administrations are spending village funds on financing infrastructure projects such
as roads and electricity without making their decisions on reliable and updated data.

4. Availability of quality data, has another long term outcome - reducing potential fraud and corruption in village administration budgets. Thus, quality data will ensure that village administration expenditure will be easy to monitor and evaluate, remove loopholes that village administration heads and staff have been using to manipulate village budgets to serve their interests to the detriment of those of the general public. Quality village data will strengthen transparency, making it possible for non-state actors and village members to serve as checks and balance on expenditures and revenues that will be made by village administration heads and staff.

5. The availability of quality data increases the possibility of attracting external partners to collaborate with village administrations in implementing village development programs. Quality village data contains vital information concerning resource potential and village development issues which makes it very useful for potential investors in various economic activities in the villages. This is the more so, given the obligation that limited companies have to conduct corporate social responsibility activities that are tailored toward contributing to village development.

6. The program can be replicated by departments of Public Administration Departments in all Universities in Indonesia. This is because there is a network that brings together all departments of public administration in Indonesia Universities. Thus, there is a possibility that in future, the program team will conduct a training of trainees program on Students’ Data collection and updating Thematic Community Development (Training of Trainers).

CONCLUSION

The Students’ Community Development Program (KKL) themed Universities Contribution to Village Development was aimed at improving the collection and updating of quality village data for selected three villages Sukawening sub district, Garut district.

The program achieved the two main objectives of collecting and updating demographic data for three villages in Sukawening sub district, and helped in building the capacity in the three villages to collect and update village data. The program had various output and outcomes that are related to availability of quality data that include but not limited to improvement in program planning and implementation; easier identification of problems villages face and attendant solutions; improvement in program targeting, monitoring and evaluation, hence effectiveness; and possibility of replication of the program in other areas.

To make improvements on the program in future, a number of things are recommended: First, the program should be restructured in such a way allowing the new batch of students enrolled in the program work in the same villages with updating demographics. With the updating demographics, the next batch of students will be able to assist the villages development planning. This could be another potential activity for the Students’ Community Development Program (KKL) themed Universities Contribution to Village Development. It is common knowledge that one of the obstacles in village development is the ability of village leaders and staffs to develop village development planning, the Community Development Program (KKL) which focused on assisting the village administration in crafting development planning was very beneficial in supporting that endeavor.

Secondly, the government of Indonesia through The Ministry of internal affairs Regulation No. 19 /2017 that concerns the priorities for the Village Fund Usage for 2018. Based on the regulation, the Students’ Community Development Program (KKL)
should be able to work with the village administration in conducting programs and projects in accordance with that regulation. This way, the Students’ Community Development Program will provide assistance and support to village administration in developing programs that will make effective and efficient use of the village fund.

Thirdly, the common practice of collecting and updating demographics using a sampling method. However, the program team observed that using a sampling method cannot produce reliable data due to a number of reasons. The Students’ Community Development Program (KKL) provides a greater opportunity at an affordable cost to assist village administration to collect and update demographics using a census method. The KKL program can also be extended to the collection of data on village economic potential which will be very useful for village economic development.

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