

# Evaluating the Practice of Fiqh Siyāsah Tanfīziyah in Village Institutional Governance: A Case Study of Pekon Way Empulau Ulu, Indonesia

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** The success of democratic village governance is essential to promoting the welfare of local communities. In Pekon Way Empulau Ulu, Balik Bukit District, West Lampung Regency, the Village Consultative Institution (Lembaga Himpun Pemekonan) has been observed to play a relatively passive role in fulfilling its responsibilities. Understanding the reasons behind this inactivity requires not only a governance analysis but also an evaluation through the lens of Islamic political law, particularly the principles of *fiqh siyāsah tanfīziyah*, which emphasize trust, justice, and community consultation.

**Aims:** This study aims to assess the role and function of the Village Consultative Institution in enhancing community welfare and to analyze whether their governance practices align with the principles of *fiqh siyāsah tanfīziyah*.

**Methods:** Using a qualitative descriptive method, the research collected data through interviews and documentation involving eight participants, consisting of village officials, institution members, and local residents. The data were analyzed thematically to reveal patterns of governance behavior and their compliance with Islamic governance principles.

**Results:** The findings show that the Village Consultative Institution has been largely ineffective in carrying out its duties, such as drafting village regulations, accommodating public aspirations, and supervising village leadership. Several key development needs, including infrastructure improvements and the distribution of village funds, remain unmet. Furthermore, the institution's operations often lack transparency, accountability, and active community participation, deviating from Islamic ethical standards.

**Conclusion:** The current practices of the Village Consultative Institution in Pekon Way Empulau Ulu do not fully reflect the ideals of *fiqh siyāsah tanfīziyah*. To achieve meaningful rural development, stronger community engagement, transparent governance, and a firm commitment to Islamic administrative ethics are urgently needed.

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## INTRODUCTION

Village governance plays a pivotal role in ensuring the socio-economic development and well-being of rural communities. In Indonesia, village consultative institutions are expected to serve as a channel for community participation, ensuring that the local government's policies align with the needs and aspirations of the people. However, despite their critical role, many of these institutions face significant challenges in fulfilling their mandate (Adams et al., 2021; Journeault et al., 2021; Zapata-Cantu & González, 2021). In Pekon Way Empulau Ulu, Balik Bukit District, West Lampung Regency, the Village Consultative Institution (Lembaga Himpun Pemekonan) has struggled to effectively promote community welfare. Issues such as poor community participation, inadequate resource allocation, and a lack of progress in addressing basic infrastructure needs have hindered the institution's ability to drive local development (Bolomope et al., 2020; Mukwena & Manyisa, 2022; Obianyano et al., 2021; Yu et al., 2024; Zickafoose et al., 2024). These problems are compounded by a failure to align the institution's practices with *fiqh siyāsah tanfīziyah*, an Islamic governance framework that emphasizes values like trust (*amanah*), consultation (*shura*), and justice (Ruhullah & Ushama, 2024). Therefore, it is crucial to examine how the integration of these principles could enhance the performance of such institutions and improve the governance and welfare of rural communities (Abu-Rayash & Dincer, 2021; Dey &

Shekhawat, 2021; Gizaw et al., 2022; Hariram et al., 2023; Stupak et al., 2021; Yu et al., 2024; Zikargae et al., 2022).

The integration of fiqh siyāsah tanfīziyah into the governance of rural communities is essential for creating a framework that upholds transparency, accountability, and fairness in decision-making. Islamic governance principles, including trust, consultation, and justice, provide a robust foundation for ethical leadership that prioritizes the needs of the community. Despite their importance, these principles are often inadequately implemented, resulting in weak governance, corruption, and stagnation in local development. This study is motivated by the need to investigate how the fiqh siyāsah framework can be effectively applied to village consultative institutions to enhance their governance and ensure they meet the needs of the rural population. By addressing the gaps in the current practices, this research aims to propose actionable solutions for strengthening the governance of rural institutions and improving their alignment with Islamic principles, thereby promoting inclusive development.

Existing literature on rural governance in Indonesia has identified several common challenges, including poor community involvement, ineffective resource management, and a lack of accountability in village institutions. This study underscores the gap between the institution's practices and the principles of fiqh siyāsah tanfīziyah, particularly in areas such as trust (amanah) and consultation (shura). Perdana & Mukhsin (2025), in their research "The Effectiveness of Village Head Performance in Public Service According to Law Number 6 of 2014 On Village Development from The Perspective of Fiqh Siyāsah", argue that effective governance requires the embodiment of Islamic values such as transparency, fairness, and responsibility. Both studies highlight the importance of integrating Islamic governance principles into village institutions to improve their accountability and governance, thus ensuring they meet the needs of their communities. While previous studies have examined the challenges faced by village governance institutions, most focus on secular legal frameworks or general governance principles without incorporating the perspective of fiqh siyāsah tanfīziyah. This gap presents an opportunity for this study to apply fiqh siyāsah tanfīziyah to evaluate the governance of Pekon Way Empulau Ulu's Village Consultative Institution, thus offering a unique contribution to the understanding of rural governance in Indonesia from an Islamic political law perspective.

The primary aim of this study is to evaluate the role and function of the Village Consultative Institution in Pekon Way Empulau Ulu in promoting community welfare and to assess the extent to which its governance practices align with fiqh siyāsah tanfīziyah principles. This study hypothesizes that the underperformance of the institution in addressing the community's needs is due to deviations from key Islamic governance principles, particularly those related to trust, consultation, and accountability. By addressing these shortcomings, the study aims to propose solutions for improving institutional performance and ensuring better governance outcomes for rural communities.

## METHOD

### Research Design

This study employs a qualitative descriptive research design, which is ideal for investigating complex, context-specific issues in rural governance that cannot be easily quantified. The aim of this design is to provide an in-depth understanding of the operations and effectiveness of the Village Consultative Institution (Lembaga Himpun Pemekonan) in Pekon Way Empulau Ulu, particularly in relation to its alignment with the principles of fiqh siyāsah tanfīziyah. This qualitative approach allows for a comprehensive exploration of the experiences and perspectives of key stakeholders, including village government officials, consultative institution members, and community representatives. By using this descriptive approach, the study aims to capture the nuances of how the institution functions, its challenges, and its overall impact on community

welfare. Through this design, the researcher is able to gain a rich, detailed account of the institution's operations and its role in local governance.

### **Participants**

The participants in this study were selected using purposive sampling, a technique that focuses on individuals who have direct experience of or involvement in the governance processes of the village. Eight participants were chosen, ensuring representation from different stakeholder groups. These participants include village government officials, such as the village head and administrative staff, who have insight into the decision-making and governance procedures of the village. Members of the Village Consultative Institution were also selected for their key roles in engaging in the community and advising on policy and governance issues. Additionally, community representatives who actively participated in village meetings and consultations were included to provide the perspective of the residents who interact with the institution. By selecting participants who are directly involved in the governance of the village, the study ensures that it captures a comprehensive view of the functioning of the institution and the challenges it faces.

### **Instruments**

The primary data collection tool for this study is semi-structured interviews, which allow the researcher to explore participants' experiences and opinions in depth while ensuring consistency across the interviews. Semi-structured interviews are particularly valuable in qualitative research as they offer flexibility, enabling the researcher to ask open-ended questions and probe further based on the responses. This method provides participants with the opportunity to express their views freely, allowing for the collection of rich, detailed data. The interviews focus on understanding the role of the Village Consultative Institution in promoting community welfare, examining how its practices align with the principles of *fiqh siyāsah tanfīziyah* (such as trust, consultation, and justice), and identifying the barriers the institution faces in fulfilling its role. In addition to the interviews, the study also employs document analysis. This involves reviewing relevant village documents, such as meeting minutes, official reports, and records of decisions made by the Village Consultative Institution. These documents provide context and complement the interview data, allowing the researcher to triangulate the findings and ensure a more comprehensive understanding of the institution's functioning.

### **Data Analysis**

Data analysis in this study follows a thematic analysis approach, which is well-suited for examining qualitative data and identifying patterns or themes. Thematic analysis involves several stages. First, the researcher familiarizes themselves with the data by transcribing the interviews and reading through the transcript's multiple times. This initial immersion allows for a deeper understanding of the content and the identification of recurring patterns. Next, the researcher conducts initial coding by tagging segments of the data that are relevant to the research questions. These initial codes are then grouped into broader themes that reflect key issues such as governance practices, community involvement, and the application of Islamic principles. After the themes are identified, the researcher interprets the data in relation to the research objectives, drawing connections between the themes and the broader context of rural governance and *fiqh siyāsah tanfīziyah*. To ensure the trustworthiness of the findings, member checking is used. This process involves sharing the analysis with the participants to verify that the findings accurately reflect their perspectives and experiences. By employing thematic analysis and member checking, the study aims to provide a robust and credible understanding of the governance practices in Pekon Way Empulau Ulu and their alignment with Islamic principles.

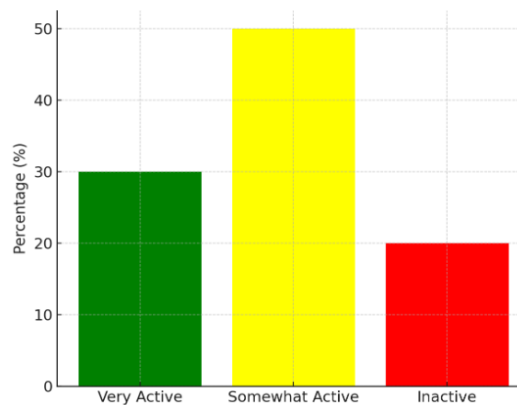
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

The findings from the study reveal several key areas of concern and insight regarding the Village Consultative Institution (Lembaga Himpun Pemekonan) in Pekon Way Empulau Ulu and its role in governance and community welfare.

#### *Community Participation*

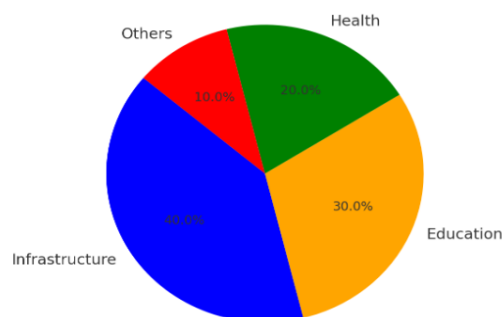
One of the most significant findings is the low level of community participation in the institution's governance processes. The data from the study shows that while 30% of the community is very active in attending meetings and consultations, 50% are somewhat active, and 20% do not participate at all. This highlights a disengagement from the governance process, suggesting that despite the opportunities provided by the institution, the community does not feel fully involved or empowered in the decision-making process.



**Figure 1.** Community Participation

#### *Village Fund Distribution*

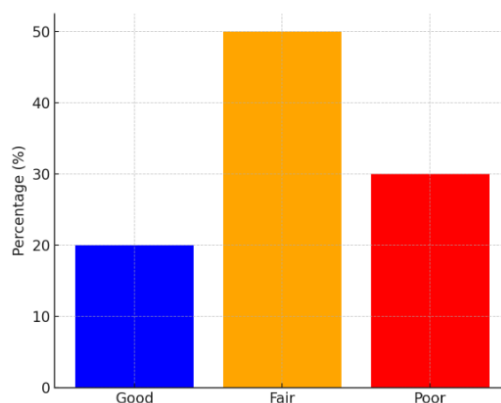
The allocation and use of village funds also emerged as a major issue. The pie chart demonstrates that the largest portion of the village's budget (40%) is directed towards infrastructure, with education receiving 30% and health 20%. However, a substantial portion (10%) is allocated to an undefined category, "Others," which raised concerns about lack of transparency in the distribution and utilization of funds. The community expressed frustration over their uncertainty regarding how funds are being managed and used, leading to a breakdown in trust.



**Figure 2.** Village Fund Distribution

#### *Infrastructure Conditions*

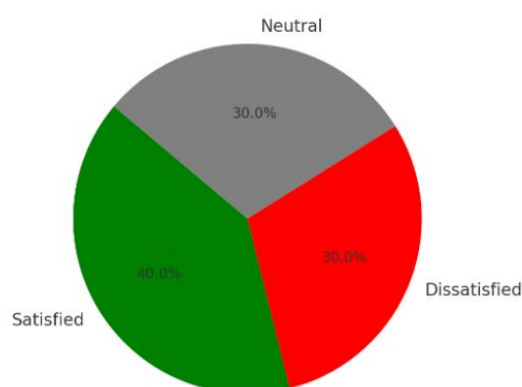
The infrastructure conditions, particularly the roads, were found to be another pressing issue. 50% of the roads are in fair condition, 30% in poor condition, and only 20% in good condition. Despite a considerable allocation of resources to improve infrastructure, inadequate implementation has led to little improvement, leaving basic community needs unmet.



**Figure 3.** Road Condition

### ***Public Perception of Institution Performance***

The public’s perception of the Village Consultative Institution was also evaluated, showing that 40% of the respondents are satisfied with the institution’s performance, while 30% are dissatisfied and 30% remain neutral. This division indicates that there is no clear consensus on the effectiveness of the institution. While some residents believe the institution has served their needs adequately, many others feel that it has failed to address their concerns, particularly in areas of transparency and accountability.



**Figure 4.** Public Perception of Institution Performance

### **Discussion**

The results of this study reveal several significant issues that affect the performance of the Village Consultative Institution in Pekon Way Empulau Ulu. These issues are consistent with broader governance challenges in rural Indonesia, where there is often a disconnect between the community and the governing institutions. The low level of community participation is a clear indication of the institution's failure to engage the public meaningfully. While the institution provides opportunities for involvement, only a small portion of the community is actively engaged, and many residents remain indifferent or disengaged from the process.

This lack of participation is a critical barrier to effective governance, as it prevents the institution. The results of this study reveal several significant issues that affect the performance of the Village Consultative Institution in Pekon Way Empulau Ulu. These issues are consistent with broader governance challenges in rural Indonesia, where there is often a disconnect between the community and the governing institutions (Harsanto & Wahyuningrat, 2024; Riggs et al., 2021; Sayer et al., 2021). The low level of community participation is a clear indication of the institution's failure to engage the public meaningfully. While the institution provides opportunities for involvement, only a small portion of the community is actively engaged, and many residents remain indifferent or disengaged from the process.

This lack of participation is a critical barrier to effective governance, as it prevents the institution from gathering diverse input, making inclusive decisions, and fostering a sense of community ownership over local issues. Studies on rural governance highlight that such disengagement often stems from ineffective outreach and poor communication by governing bodies (Sari, 2021; Mubyarto, 2020). The lack of transparency in the distribution of village funds is another significant challenge. With 40% of the funds allocated to infrastructure, it is clear that the community expects improvements in basic services such as roads and public facilities. However, the absence of clear communication about how these funds are used has led to growing frustration and distrust. The principle of accountability (*mas'uliyah*) emphasized in *fiqh siyāsah tanfiziyah* stresses the importance of transparency in managing public resources. When institutions fail to adhere to this principle, they risk eroding public trust and creating an environment ripe for corruption and inefficiency.

The condition of infrastructure further underscores the institution's shortcomings. Despite the allocation of resources for infrastructure, poor execution has prevented the village from benefiting from the expected improvements. The lack of attention to basic needs such as roads and public services contradicts the principle of justice (*adl*) in *fiqh siyāsah tanfiziyah*, which dictates that leaders must prioritize the welfare of the community (Jalili, 2024). The findings of this study echo broader concerns about governance in rural Indonesia, where the failure to address fundamental needs leads to a cycle of stagnation and dissatisfaction (Baharuddin & and, 2025; Kartikasari, 2025; McCarthy et al., 2022). Finally, the polarized perception of the institution's performance highlights the division between the institution and the community. While some residents view the institution positively, many others feel that it has not delivered on its promises, leading to a lack of trust and engagement. This polarized view underscores the importance of improving transparency, communication, and community involvement to foster better governance outcomes. The institution must rebuild trust by adhering more closely to the principles of consultation (*shura*) and trustworthiness (*amanah*), which are central tenets of Islamic (Ahmad et al., 2023; Bhat & Nabi, 2024; Herijanto, 2022; Ruhullah & Ushama, 2024).

### **Implications**

The findings of this study have important implications for the future of village governance in Indonesia. First, the study highlights the need for village institutions to prioritize community participation by creating more accessible and inclusive channels for engagement. Regular town hall meetings, open forums, and better communication strategies can help ensure that a wider segment of the community feels involved in decision-making processes. Second, the study underscores the need for greater transparency and accountability in the management of village funds. Establishing clear systems for reporting how resources are allocated and spent would help rebuild public trust and ensure that funds are used effectively for the benefit of the community. Finally, the study points to the importance of training and capacity-building for village leaders and consultative body members. Providing training on Islamic governance principles, particularly trust, consultation, and justice, can help improve the governance practices of the Village Consultative Institution, ensuring that decisions align with the values of *fiqh siyāsah tanfiziyah* and meet the needs of the community.

### **Limitations**

While this study provides valuable insights, there are several limitations to consider. The study relies on a small sample size of only eight participants, which may not fully capture the diversity of views within the community. A larger sample size, as well as the inclusion of more villages, would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges facing rural governance in Indonesia. Additionally, the study is based on self-reported data from interviews, which may be subject to biases such as social desirability or recall bias. Despite employing members checking to ensure the accuracy of the data, qualitative research is inherently subjective,

and the findings are shaped by both the participants' perspectives and the researcher's interpretation of the data.

### **Suggestions**

Based on the findings of this study, several suggestions can be made to improve the performance of the Village Consultative Institution in Pekon Way Empulau Ulu:

#### **1. Increasing Community Participation**

Create more inclusive spaces for public participation by holding regular community meetings, workshops, and open forums where residents can voice their concerns and contribute to decision-making.

#### **2. Enhance Financial Transparency**

Implement a transparent system for reporting how village funds are allocated and spent, ensuring that the community is well-informed about the management of public resources.

#### **3. Invest in Capacity-Building for Village Leaders**

Provide training for village leaders and consultative body members on fiqh siyāsah tanfiziyah principles, particularly in areas such as accountability, consultation, and justice, to improve their governance practices and better serve the community.

Future research should explore the implementation of fiqh siyāsah in other villages to assess whether these findings are applicable to other rural areas in Indonesia, and whether the principles of Islamic governance can help address similar challenges elsewhere.

### **CONCLUSION**

This study explored the role and effectiveness of the Village Consultative Institution (Lembaga Himpun Pemekonan) in Pekon Way Empulau Ulu, focusing on its alignment with fiqh siyāsah tanfiziyah principles and its impact on community welfare. The findings revealed significant issues, such as low community participation, a lack of transparency in the management of village funds, and poor infrastructure development, all of which hinder the institution's ability to effectively serve the community. The failure to apply core Islamic governance principles like trust (amanah), consultation (shura), and justice (adl) contributed to the erosion of public trust. To address these challenges, enhancing community engagement through transparent governance processes and providing training in Islamic governance for village leaders are crucial steps. This study highlights the importance of integrating fiqh siyāsah tanfiziyah in local governance to foster accountability, inclusivity, and effective decision-making, offering valuable insights for improving governance practices in rural Indonesia. Future research could further explore the broader application of these principles across other rural areas to assess their impact on governance and community development.

### **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS STATEMENT**

Ahmad Zulkhakim: Conceived and designed the study, performed data collection, and led the data analysis and interpretation. Contributed to writing and revising the manuscript.

Muhammad Zaki: Assisted in the design of the study, provided critical feedback on the methodology, and contributed to data collection. Played a key role in analyzing the data and revising the manuscript.

Ahmad Burhanuddin: Supported the conceptual framework of the study and contributed to the development of the literature review. Assisted in analyzing the results and contributed to drafting and revising the manuscript.

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