

The Role of Village Government in Public Information Disclosure (Case Study in Sugihwaras Village, Candi District, Sidoarjo Regency)

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aims to analyze the role of the Sugihwaras Village Government in implementing public information disclosure as part of transparent, participatory, and accountable governance. **Method:** Using a descriptive qualitative approach, data were collected through observation, in-depth interviews, documentation, and digital questionnaires distributed to village officials and the community. The analytical framework adopts Biddle's role theory, which emphasizes how individuals understand, internalize, and perform their expected social roles within an organizational context. **Results:** The research findings reveal that although infrastructures such as the Village Information System (SID) and the Information and Documentation Management Officer (PPID) have been established, the implementation of information transparency remains suboptimal. Challenges include unclear role expectations among village officials, limited human resource capacity, weak inter-role coordination, and low digital literacy within the community. Furthermore, role ambiguity and passive disposition among implementers have reduced the effectiveness of the information disclosure policy. Therefore, the success of this policy requires clear role structuring, consistent role communication, support from higher-level government structures, and active public participation. **Novelty:** This study contributes theoretically by applying role theory in public administration and practically by offering recommendations to strengthen role alignment in village governance.

INTRODUCTION

A village can be understood as an area characterized by strong social and cultural ties, reflected in the habits of its residents who know each other, maintain a spirit of mutual cooperation, and preserve customs [1]. Village communities typically live by social rules passed down through generations and based on prevailing customs. The majority of the population works as farmers, while in terms of government, the status of villages is regulated specifically. This is emphasized in Law Number 32 of 2004 concerning Regional Government, which was later updated through Law Number 12 of 2008, which differentiates the status of villages from sub-districts [2]. Based on their origins and traditions recognized by the state, villages have the authority to regulate and manage the interests of their citizens. This authority arises because villages are viewed as legal community entities with clear territorial boundaries [3].

Public information transparency is an important aspect in the implementation of village governance. This point is emphasized in Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, specifically Article 27 letter d, which states that the Village Head is obliged to submit a written report regarding the implementation of duties, authorities, rights, and obligations as stated in Article 26 to the community every budget year [4]. Article 86 paragraph (5) of the Village Law provides a legal basis that the Village Information System is managed by the village government and is open to the community and other parties who need it. This principle of transparency is further strengthened through

Article 40 of the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 113 of 2014, which stipulates that reports on the realization and accountability of the Village Budget must be published in writing to the community by utilizing easily accessible information facilities, such as bulletin boards, community radio, or other publication media.

The principle of transparency is the main foundation in the management and delivery of information related to village government. The village government must ensure that the public can obtain accurate information regarding the policies and practices implemented [5]. The public has the right to obtain information that is accurate, honest, and free from discrimination. This right is guaranteed through the principle of transparency in the implementation of village government, as emphasized in Article 24, which is one of the foundations of village regulations. [6]. Providing access to information by the village government not only increases public trust, but also encourages active participation in every village development process. This openness serves as a preventative measure against potential conflicts between village officials and residents [7]. In its implementation, the village government is guided by legal provisions, such as Law No. 6 of 2014 Article 24 and Article 68 paragraph (1). Transparency can be seen from three main aspects, namely open oversight policies, easy public access to policy information, and the separation of roles between the executive and legislative branches in managing government.[8]

The application of the principle of public information transparency in village management is a crucial element in realizing good governance. According [9] Sidoarjo Regency Government, East Java, also supports technology-based government management through Regent Regulation Number 46 of 2018 concerning Information and Communication Technology Governance towards a Smart City. As part of the implementation of this regulation, since 2020, Sidoarjo Regency has adopted information technology-based services through the Sidoarjo People's Service System (Sipraja) application and the Information and Documentation System available on the official regional government website. One of the villages that implements this system is Sugihwaras Village, Candi District. This village has developed a Village Information System (SID) which can be accessed through <https://sugihwaras.desa.id/> as a means of providing effective and efficient public services and information. The presence of the SID in Sugihwaras Village allows the community and external parties to obtain more detailed and transparent information without having to visit the village office in person. In addition to demonstrating accountability, this website is also designed to facilitate access to various village administrative services, thereby increasing efficiency in public service delivery.

To ensure optimal public information disclosure, the Sugihwaras Village Government established a Village Information and Documentation Management Officer (PPID) in 2021. This establishment is based on Sugihwaras Village Regulation Number 07 of 2021 concerning Public Information Disclosure and Decree of the Head of Sugihwaras Village Number 36 of 2021 concerning the PPID of Sugihwaras Village. This step was taken as a form of compliance with higher government regulations, as well as an effort to optimally utilize Information and Communication Technology (ICT). With various policies related to the digitalization of government administration, Sugihwaras

Village strives to optimize the management of the SID as a means of disseminating public information. This implementation is carried out properly and in accordance with regulations to support digital-based village governance and improve services to the community more effectively and efficiently.



Figure 1. Organizational Structure of PPID Sugihwaras Village.

Source: <https://sugihwaras.desa.id/>

Although information transparency has become a priority in village governance, its implementation in Sugihwaras Village still faces several obstacles, particularly in terms of human resource readiness, regulatory clarity, and the use of information technology. In this context, Bruce Biddle's role theory can be used to analyze how actors within the village government structure play their roles in conveying information to the public. When the expected roles of village officials do not align with the roles they understand or carry out, role conflict or role ambiguity will occur, which can hinder the process of implementing information transparency [10]. For example, village officials and the PPID are faced with expectations to be transparent, but on the other hand, they are not fully equipped with adequate understanding or technical capacity to carry out these roles optimally.

Village governments have a significant responsibility to ensure that public information disclosure is fully and sustainably implemented. Within the context of role theory, village officials act as social actors within a bureaucratic system that is subject to specific community expectations and formal regulations. The success of information disclosure depends on how consistently they carry out this role, including translating regulations into work programs, providing supporting facilities, and establishing more effective communication patterns. If village officials do not understand or feel ownership of this role internally, there is a high likelihood of a mismatch between role expectations and actual actions, which also impacts low community participation.

As policy actors, village governments have a significant responsibility to ensure that public information disclosure is fully and sustainably implemented. The village government's role as implementer is reflected in how they translate regulations into work programs, provide supporting facilities and infrastructure, and establish effective communication patterns between village officials and the community [11]. Furthermore, competent human resource support and a thorough understanding of policy objectives are key to maintaining the accuracy, completeness, and sustainability of the information presented. Data on the fluctuating number of accesses to the Sugihwaras website indicates that the implementation of the information disclosure policy has not been optimal. This can be attributed to a mismatch between social expectations regarding the role of village governments and how that role is carried out in reality, which, when referring to the perspective of role theory, is referred to as role strain or role conflict.[12]

In 2019, the number of website visits was recorded at only 12,387. This figure then rose significantly in 2020 to 28,742 and continued to climb until it peaked at 209,335 in 2022. This growth trend indicates growing public awareness of the importance of information transparency, in line with the increasing number of digital village administration and information services. However, this increase has not been fully sustainable. In 2023, the number of accesses actually decreased drastically to 152,252. This decline indicates the persistence of various obstacles, such as inconsistent information updates, a lack of outreach activities, and technical difficulties in village website management. As a result, several types of public information that should be easily accessible to the public are not yet fully available optimally, either through digital platforms or conventional channels. The fluctuating data on the number of accesses to the Sugihwaras website indicates that the implementation of the information transparency policy has not been optimal. This reinforces the urgency of research into how the six variables in Van Meter and Van Horn's theory play a role in supporting or hindering public information transparency at the village level.

Table 1. Number of Sugihwaras Village Website Visitors 2020 - 2023

No.	Year	Number of Accesses
1.	2019	12,387
2.	2020	28,742
3.	2021	76,039
4.	2022	209,335
5.	2023	152,252
Total Access		478,755

Source: Amiril and Choiriyah (2024)

Various studies have examined the implementation of public information disclosure in village governance through the implementation of e-government and web-based information systems. Research conducted by Angganten (2024) discussed the implementation of e-government in Tapak Village, Panekan District, Magetan Regency [13]. The study highlighted the main challenges faced in implementing a web-based information disclosure system, including a lack of digital literacy among the community, limited technological infrastructure, and minimal budget allocation for village website

management. Furthermore, limited human resources in information system management are a hindering factor in ensuring the information provided is always updated and relevant to the community. Meanwhile, the main benefit of e-government in Tapak Village is easy access to information and administrative services without having to visit the village office, which saves time and costs for the local community. However, obstacles remain, such as suboptimal internet connections and data that is not yet fully integrated into the system.

Furthermore, research by Nuriyatman et al. highlights the importance of public information disclosure in village government administration through a case study in Batang Sangir Village, Kayu Aro District, Kerinci Regency [14]. This study highlights the village's lag in adopting digital information systems, resulting in difficulties for the community in accessing information related to government structures, village potential, and village policies. Through a community service program, this study emphasizes the urgency for villages that do not yet have digital information systems to immediately build official websites as a means of information disclosure. Based on this research, the regulatory aspect is also a crucial factor, where the Village Law and Information Commission Regulations have mandated village governments to provide transparent and accountable information. However, obstacles in implementation remain, including limited understanding of information technology among village officials and a lack of community support in utilizing the information disclosure system.

Furthermore, research conducted by Nadia and Arif focused on the implementation of public information disclosure on the PPID website of Sidodadi Village, Mukomuko Regency [15]. This study used a content analysis approach to analyze the content available on the village website, including the text and images displayed. The results showed that the PPID website of Sidodadi Village fulfilled its function as a promotional, marketing, information, education, and communication medium for the village community. Transparency and efficiency in disseminating information were evident in the completeness of the data available on the website. However, although the website was running well, this study still found obstacles in the form of limited public access to the internet and a lack of public participation in utilizing these digital services.

Based on several previous studies, there are research gaps that require further study in Sugihwaras Village, Candi District, Sidoarjo Regency. Unlike Tapak and Sidodadi Villages, which still face several obstacles in implementing digital information systems, Sugihwaras Village already has a structured SID system supported by the establishment of a PPID (Regional Information and Public Information Officer) as a concrete effort by the village government to realize public information transparency. However, the extent to which actors in the village government are able to effectively carry out their social roles in terms of supporting information transparency remains understudied. This study will utilize Bruce Biddle's role theory to analyze how the village government, particularly implementing officials, can understand, negotiate, and also carry out their roles in the context of public information transparency. This approach is expected to provide a more sociological and in-depth picture of the dynamics of the implementation of the role of the village bureaucracy in efforts to realize more participatory, transparent, and accountable governance.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach to describe and analyze the role of village government in public information disclosure in Sugihwaras Village, Candi District, Sidoarjo Regency. The research location was determined based on the relevance of the study object to the research focus. Data collection techniques used include direct observation, namely by observing conditions in the field to understand the implementation of village information disclosure, as well as the distribution of digital questionnaires to village officials and the community [16]. In addition, documentation is also used as a data collection method to obtain supporting evidence in the form of official documents, archives, and related regulations related to information transparency in village government.

This study focuses on the role of the village government in public information disclosure in Sugihwaras Village, Candi District, Sidoarjo Regency. Informants were selected using a purposive sampling technique, involving individuals considered to play key social roles in the practice of information disclosure in the village. Informants included the Village Head, Village Secretary, Village Consultative Body (BPD) members, SID Management Technical Staff, and the Head of the Neighborhood Association (RT).

The types of data collected consist of primary data and secondary data. Primary data were obtained from direct observation and questionnaires sent to relevant informants, while secondary data were collected through literature studies, analysis of policy documents, laws and regulations, village reports, and archives that support the research [17]. To analyze the data, this study used the Huberman and Saldana interactive analysis model, which consists of four main stages: (1) data collection, namely the process of collecting information through observation, interviews, and documentation during the research; (2) data reduction, namely the process of filtering and selecting relevant data to be focused on in the research; (3) data presentation, namely organizing information systematically to make it easier to analyze and interpret; and (4) drawing conclusions, where the grouped data are analyzed thoroughly to obtain results that can be the basis for recommendations in improving the role of village government in public information disclosure in village government [18]. This model allows researchers to capture the social dynamics related to how informants understand and carry out their roles in the village government system.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Public information transparency at the village level depends not only on the existence of information systems or institutions, but also on the extent to which village government officials are able to play their roles effectively. In Sugihwaras Village, Candi District, Sidoarjo Regency, the presence of the Village Information System (SID) and the establishment of the Information and Documentation Management Officer (PPID) are concrete steps in supporting transparency. However, as explained in Bruce Biddle's role theory, the effectiveness of roles is determined not only by formal rules, but also by how actors understand, negotiate, and carry out their responsibilities in daily interactions. In this case, the village government can function as a regulator that establishes rules and ensures transparency runs according to principles, as a facilitator that facilitates public

access to information, and as a catalyst that encourages public participation in monitoring and utilizing available information [19]. In this way, public information transparency in the village is not simply understood as an administrative obligation, but as a social practice that demands an active role from village officials in building a culture of transparency and accountability within the community.

1. The Role of Village Government as a Regulator

As a regulator, the Sugihwaras Village government places public information disclosure within a clear legal framework through the Village Information System (SID) and the establishment of the Information and Documentation Management Officer (PPID). The policy framework used refers not only to the Public Information Disclosure Law but is also reinforced by local regulations such as the Village Head's Decree concerning PPID and Sidoarjo Regent Regulation Number 98 of 2022, which confirms that the Village Secretary is responsible for SID management. Existing regulations not only provide administrative legitimacy but also require the village government to organize workflows, divide the duties and functions of its officials, and ensure that public information is transparently accessible to the public. The village head plays a crucial role in ensuring these regulations are implemented, both through internal outreach and direct supervision. One village official stated, *"We do have a clear legal basis, but the challenge is ensuring that officials truly understand and are able to implement these regulations in daily practice"* (Interview with Village Official, September 3, 2025). This statement shows that regulations do not automatically guarantee information transparency, but rather require a process of internalization and understanding among village officials so that policies can be implemented effectively.

The implementation of regulations in Sugihara's Village has been demonstrated through the active role of the village head and his staff in ensuring that the SID functions as the primary means of providing public information. The village head is directly involved in supervision, while the Village Secretary, along with the Head of Administration and General Affairs, perform technical functions as system operators. With a clear division of duties and functions, each staff member has responsibilities in accordance with established regulatory mandates, allowing for a more structured flow of information. One implementing official stated, *"All information related to administrative services is now directed through the SID so that residents can access it easily and do not have to wait long at the village office"* (Interview with Implementing Official, September 3, 2025).



Figure 2. Front Page of the Village Information System (SID).

Source: <https://sugihwaras.desa.id/>

This practice aligns with the research findings of Yusuf et al, which emphasized that clear regulations and division of tasks are key factors in supporting public information transparency at the village level [20]. Public information transparency is a key indicator of good governance, with the government's commitment to transparency being a key driver of accountable and participatory governance.

2. The Role of Village Government as a Facilitator

The Sugihara's Village government plays a facilitative role by disseminating public information to the community through the Village Information System (SID). Rather than relying solely on village information boards as a passive medium, village officials are working to introduce the Village Information System (SID) to the entire Sugihwaras community by utilizing everyday communication channels, such as the sub-district WhatsApp group, which is then forwarded by the RT heads to each resident group. This pattern is considered more effective because it follows the community's habit of actively using instant messaging media. One village official explained, " *We continuously share the SID website link in the sub-district WhatsApp group, then the hamlet or RT heads forward it to their residents, so the community learns about the SID more quickly without having to wait for an announcement at the village hall.*" (Interview with Village Official, September 3, 2025). This simple step demonstrates the village's role as a facilitator, not only providing digital resources but also ensuring that information actually reaches residents in an easily accessible manner.

In addition to disseminating information, the role of facilitators is also reflected in content management and data updates on the SID. Although face-to-face outreach has not yet been implemented, village officials strive to ensure the information displayed is always relevant and up-to-date. This task is carried out by the information service advisory team, which regularly updates data, news, and documentation on the SID website. One implementing official stated, " *Data updates are usually handled by the information and documentation team, so that residents who open the website can immediately see the latest data.*" (Interview with Implementing Official, September 3, 2025). Consistency in data updates is a crucial part of the facilitation function, because without updates, the digital system will simply be an empty container. This finding aligns with research by

Mamminanga et al, which states that the success of public information facilitation at the village level is greatly influenced by the appropriateness of the media used and the discipline of officials in maintaining data accuracy [21].

Table 2. Facilitation by the Sugihwaras Village Government.

Facility Form	Executor	Media/Platform	Objective
SID link distribution	Village apparatus	Whatsapp Group	Residents can find out about the existence of the Sugihwaras Village SID
SID data update	Information Services Advisory Team	SID System	Ensuring citizens have the latest information
Provision of a comment's column & suggestions	Information Services Advisory Team	SID	Encouraging citizen participation

Source: Processed Data (2025)

3. The Role of Village Government as a Catalyst

Efforts to promote a culture of information transparency in Sugihwaras Village extend beyond the provision of a Village Information System (SID) to a concrete implementation of transparency in daily administrative activities. The village government routinely publishes village activities and posts budget transparency reports on the SID website, allowing residents to directly access information related to the use of village funds. This practice is crucial, as public trust is not built on promises alone, but on transparent data that can be viewed and monitored by the public. In an interview, a village official stated, "*We always try to display activity and budget data on the SID so that the public can understand how the village funds are being used.*" (Interview with Village Official, September 3, 2025). This statement emphasizes the village government's role as a catalyst, accelerating the development of a culture of transparency without waiting for demands from residents. In this way, transparency is not merely an administrative obligation but develops into a habit that is embedded in village governance.

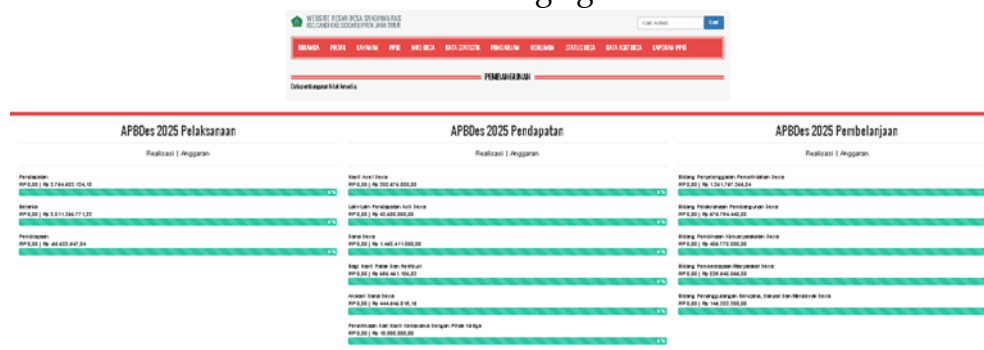


Figure 3. Village Budget Information from the sugihwaras.id website

Source: <https://sugihwaras.desa.id/>

In addition to presenting data, the village government also strives to create a space for participation so that residents feel directly involved in the information disclosure process. Through the comments column and feedback space in the Village Information System (SID), the public is given the opportunity to express opinions, criticisms, and input on village government services. The presence of this dialogue space is a strategy to encourage residents not only as recipients of information, but also as active actors in the oversight process. A village official stated, "*We provide a comments column and feedback space so that the public can participate in monitoring and provide input.*" (Interview with Village Official, September 3, 2025). The consistent provision of this participation space demonstrates the village government's catalytic role in strengthening interactions between the bureaucracy and residents. Furthermore, this strategy aligns with Sumiaty's view, which emphasizes that public information disclosure will be more effective if accompanied by community participation mechanisms [22]. In this way, the SID functions not only as an information medium but also as a means of collaboration in building transparent and accountable village governance.

CONCLUSION

Fundamental Finding : Based on the results of research on the role of the village government in public information disclosure in Sugihwaras village, it is clear that the village government plays its role as a regulator, facilitator, and catalyst in encouraging the creation of transparent and participatory governance. As a regulator, the village has a clear legal basis through village regulations, PPID Decrees, and the assignment of appropriate officials to ensure that SID governance runs according to regulations. As a facilitator, the village government strives to facilitate public access to information by distributing SID links through social networks such as the Neighborhood Association (RT) WhatsApp group and ensuring that data is always updated by the information service deliberation team. Meanwhile, as a catalyst, the village government does not stop at providing information, but also fosters a culture of transparency by displaying budget reports openly and providing space for public participation through comment and suggestion columns. **Implication :** These three roles complement each other and demonstrate that public information disclosure is not only a normative obligation, but also a strategy for building public trust and participation. **Limitation :** It is understood that the implementation of SID in Sugihwaras Village is part of the process of transforming the village bureaucracy towards more accountable, inclusive, and responsive governance to the needs of residents. **Future Research :** Future research can expand the analysis by comparing the role of public information disclosure in other villages or districts to identify best practices and challenges in different socio-political contexts, as well as evaluating the long-term impact of SID on public participation and trust.

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