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THE EFFECT OF VILLAGE APPARATUS COMPETENCE, COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, AND BUDGET TARGET CLARITY ON THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF VILLAGE FUND MANAGEMENT

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Abstract

The accountability of Village Fund management has become a strategic issue due to the increasing allocation of Village Funds and the persistent challenges encountered in their management at the village level. Strengthening the village apparatus competence, enhancing community participation, and ensuring budget target clarity are considered essential measures to improve accountability throughout the planning and implementation of village development programs. This study aims to empirically examine the effects of village apparatus competence, community participation, and budget target clarity on the accountability of Village Fund management. The study was conducted in Gianyar Regency, Bali Province, involving village government officials from 64 villages selected using a purposive sampling technique. The respondents consisted of Village Heads, Village Secretaries, Village Financial Officers, and members of the Village Consultative Body (BPD). The collected data were analyzed using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) with SmartPLS software. The findings indicate that village apparatus competence, community participation, and budget target clarity have positive effects on the accountability of Village Fund management. These results suggest that improving the village apparatus competence, increasing community involvement in Village Fund management, and establishing clear budget objectives contribute to more accountable Village Fund governance. The study highlights the importance of strengthening the capacity of village government personnel, expanding community participation through village deliberation forums, and implementing measurable goal-oriented budgeting as key strategies for enhancing the accountability of Village Fund management.

Keywords: Village Apparatus Competence, Community Participation, Budget Target Clarity, Village Fund Accountability

INTRODUCTION

The accountability of Village Fund management is a fundamental element in ensuring the implementation of good village governance. According to Mardiasmo (2018), accountability refers to the obligation of reporting entities to account for the management of resources and the implementation of entrusted policies in achieving predetermined objectives. Accountability plays a crucial role in minimizing irregularities and the misuse of public resources for private interests (Ardianti & Suartana, 2020). In the context of Village Fund management, accountability requires village governments to provide responsibility, present, report, and disclose all activities under their authority to the community, which has the right to demand such accountability (Mahmudi, 2019).

Under Law Number 6 of 2014 on Villages, villages are granted the authority to independently administer their governance, including the management of Village Funds sourced from the State Budget (Anggaran Pendapatan dan Belanja Negara-APBN). These funds are allocated as a dedicated budget item within the national budget and are transferred through a mechanism beginning from the State General Treasury Account (Rekening Kas Umum Negara-RKUN) to the Regional General Treasury Account (Rekening Kas Umum Daerah-RKUD), and subsequently to the Village Treasury Account for management by the village government (Directorate General of Fiscal Balance, Ministry of Finance, 2021). The government has also implemented the Village Financial System (Sistem Keuangan Desa-Siskeudes) as an instrument for village financial administration and reporting. The establishment of these regulations and financial management systems reflects the government's commitment to strengthening administrative governance in village financial management. The allocation of Village Funds from the central government enables villages to independently design and implement development programs that address the specific needs and characteristics of their communities (Yunita & Christianingrum, 2018). According to Gwijangge et al. (2021), this policy is intended to promote sustainable rural economic development. The priority use of Village Funds includes financing village governance, development programs, income distribution, and community empowerment, with expenditures aligned to the Village Medium-Term Development Plan and the Village Government Work Plan. Table 1 presents the national Village Fund allocation during the 2020–2024 period.

Table 1. National Village Fund Allocation, 2020–2024 (in Indonesian Rupiah)

Year	Village Fund Allocation
2020	IDR 72 trillion
2021	IDR 72 trillion
2022	IDR 68 trillion
2023	IDR 67 trillion
2024	IDR 69 trillion

Source: Directorate General of Fiscal Balance, Ministry of Finance.

Table 1 presents the national Village Fund allocations provided by the Indonesian government from 2020 to 2024. The highest allocation amounted to IDR 72 trillion, recorded in both 2020 and 2021. However, the allocation declined to IDR 68 trillion in 2022 and IDR 67 trillion in 2023 before increasing to IDR 69 trillion in 2024. Despite these fluctuations, the government has consistently demonstrated its commitment to supporting rural development by maintaining a relatively stable and substantial annual Village Fund allocation.

Bali is among the provinces receiving a relatively large allocation of Village Funds. In 2024, the allocation was distributed across eight regencies and one municipality, covering a total of 636 villages. The detailed Village Fund allocation for Bali Province in 2024 is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Village Fund Allocation for Bali Province in 2024 (in Indonesian Rupiah)

No	Regency / Municipality	Number of Villages	Basic Allocation per Village	Basic Allocation	Formula-Based Allocation	Affirmative Allocation	Performance-Based Allocation	Total Village Fund (IDR)
1	Jembrana	41	700,990	28,740,574	11,158,132	–	1,790,250	41,689,956
2	Tabanan	133	640,566	85,195,250	24,603,375	–	5,115,000	114,913,625
3	Badung	46	707,221	32,532,152	12,652,217	–	1,636,800	46,821,169
4	Gianyar	64	723,359	46,294,952	17,634,727	–	2,813,250	66,742,929
5	Klungkung	53	657,291	34,836,418	9,701,005	–	2,301,750	46,839,173
6	Bangli	68	630,594	42,880,420	12,735,938	–	2,813,250	58,429,608
7	Karangasem	75	709,716	53,228,718	21,921,989	–	3,069,000	78,219,707
8	Buleleng	129	692,743	89,363,910	34,117,997	–	5,115,000	128,596,907
9	Denpasar	27	775,074	20,926,998	11,792,980	–	1,278,750	33,998,728

Source: Directorate General of Fiscal Balance, Ministry of Finance, 2024.

Table 2 shows that the allocation of Village Funds in Bali Province is determined based on the number of villages and several allocation components, including the basic allocation, formula-based allocation, affirmative allocation, and performance-based allocation. Buleleng Regency received the largest allocation, whereas Denpasar Municipality received the smallest. Gianyar Regency, comprising 64 villages, received IDR 66.74 billion in Village Funds and ranked third in terms of the highest average Village Fund allocation per village. Nevertheless, the case involving the withdrawal of Direct Cash Assistance (Bantuan Langsung Tunai-BLT) in Pejeng Kaja Village indicates that weaknesses in the accountability of Village Fund management still exist. Village Fund management is intended to improve community welfare through rural development, community empowerment, and the provision of public services. Accordingly, its implementation should emphasize transparency, community participation, and accountability.

The relationship between the village government and the community regarding village fund management can be explained through Agency Theory, as proposed by Jensen and Meckling (1976). The village government acts as the agent entrusted with the mandate to manage village resources, including village funds and the community serves as the principal that grants this mandate. A study by Hendrastuti and Harahap (2023) highlights that Agency Theory explain the potential for conflicts of interest and information asymmetry between the agent and the principal. Public accountability mechanisms are essential to prevent opportunistic behavior and ensure that village fund management aligns with the interests and needs of the village community.

The selection of the three independent variables in this study is grounded in agency theory. Wijayanti and Hanafi (2018) state that the relationship between village apparatus (as agents) and the community (as principals) necessitates clear oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure the accountable management of village funds. Village apparatus competence reflects the ability and knowledge regarding financial management functions in accordance with regulations and principles of good governance. Community participation serves as a social control, ensuring that agents act in the public interest (Ariasih et al., 2024). Clarity of budget objectives provides a guideline for apparatus to utilize funds efficiently and purposefully (Sulistyowati and Prasetyo, 2025), thereby enabling village development goals to be achieved in a transparent and accountable manner.

The competence of village apparatus is a crucial aspect in ensuring accountability in village fund management, as it encompasses the knowledge, technical skills, and professional attitudes required for managing village administration and finances. Knowledge enables apparatus to understand regulations and governance principles (Anto & Amir, 2017), technical skills ensure the ability to properly prepare, implement, and account for the budget (Hardiningsih et al., 2020). A professional work attitude helps maintain the apparatus integrity and objectivity in carrying out their duties, thereby reducing the risk of irregularities.

Community participation refers to the involvement and active role of the community in the planning, implementation, and oversight of village development programs (Adisasmita, 2020). Village governance practices facilitate community participation through the Village Consultative Body (BPD) a representative institution that accommodates community aspirations and oversees the performance of the village government in accordance with Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages.

Budget target clarity refers to the extent to which budget objectives are clearly specified and understood by those responsible for achieving them (Locke & Latham, 2002). Clearly defined budget objectives provide village apparatus with explicit guidance for allocating and utilizing Village Funds (Anggraini & Darmawan, 2020), thereby enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of budget management. Moreover, budget target clarity facilitates monitoring and evaluation functions by enabling the systematic assessment of Village Fund utilization (Efrizar, 2017).

Previous studies have examined various factors influencing the accountability of Village Fund management. Dewi and Gayatri (2019) and Kaunang (2020) found that village apparatus competence has a positive effect on Village Fund management accountability. Similarly, Wijaya and Suardana (2019), Aziiz and Prastiti (2019), and Rasmini and Mimba (2020) reported that the competence of village apparatus positively contributes to the accountability of Village Fund management.

Regarding community participation, Handayani and Kurniawan (2021) and Aurelia et al. (2023) found that community involvement in planning and monitoring activities positively affects the accountability of Village Fund management. These findings are further supported by Julianto and Dewi (2019), Sujatnika and Sulindawati (2022), and Riyadi (2024), who likewise concluded that community participation has a significant positive influence on Village Fund management accountability.

Studies by Yoga and Wirawati (2020) and Audia and Mulyani (2023) demonstrated that budget target clarity positively affects the accountability of Village Fund management. These findings are consistent with those of Rininda and Sudaryati (2020), Wardani and Silvia (2021), and Handayani and Ridwan (2024), who argued that clearly defined budget objectives facilitate monitoring and evaluation because performance indicators can be assessed against predetermined targets.

However, several studies have reported inconsistent findings. Mualifu et al. (2019) found that budget target clarity did not significantly influence the accountability of Village Fund management in their study area. Likewise, Widyatama et al. (2017) reported no significant relationship between competence and accountability, while Aprilya (2018) found that community participation had no significant effect on accountability. These inconsistent findings suggest that the influence of these factors may vary across different institutional and regional contexts, highlighting the need for further investigation in other geographical settings.

This study offers a novel contribution compared with previous research. Earlier studies have predominantly incorporated budget target clarity within the context of regional governments or Regional Apparatus Organizations (Organisasi Perangkat Daerah-OPD), particularly in relation to performance-based budgeting and public sector performance evaluation. In contrast, the present study emphasizes budget target clarity as a critical determinant of accountability in Village Fund management within the context of village governments.

METHOD

This study employed an associative research design using a quantitative approach to examine the effects of village apparatus competence, community participation, and budget target clarity on the accountability of Village Fund management. The research was conducted in Gianyar Regency, Bali Province, which consists of 64 villages across seven districts. Gianyar Regency was selected because of its relatively high average Village Fund allocation, which necessitates a correspondingly high level of accountability. The dependent variable in this study is the accountability of Village Fund management, while village apparatus competence, community participation, and budget target clarity serve as the independent variables.

The study population comprised village apparatus from all 64 villages in Gianyar Regency. The sample was selected using a purposive sampling technique under a non-probability sampling approach. The respondents included Village Heads, Village Secretaries, Village Financial Officers, and the Chairperson or members of the Village Consultative Body (Badan Permusyawaratan Desa-BPD) who had participated in at least one cycle of the Village Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBDes). The study utilized primary quantitative data collected through the direct distribution of structured questionnaires employing a modified Likert scale. Instrument quality was assessed through validity and reliability testing, together with outer model evaluation, including convergent validity, discriminant validity, and construct reliability.

Data were analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling–Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS) with SmartPLS software, as this method is appropriate for studies involving multiple latent constructs and does not require multivariate normality. The analytical procedure included descriptive statistical analysis, evaluation of the outer model through validity and reliability assessments, evaluation of the inner model using the coefficient of determination (R^2), and hypothesis testing through the bootstrapping procedure. The hypotheses were considered supported when the t-statistic exceeded 1.96 and the p-value was below 0.05 at the 5% significance level.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Respondent Characteristics

Table 3. Respondent Characteristics

No.	Characteristics	Classification	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
1	Gender	Male	186	74.0
		Female	67	26.0
		Total	253	100.0
2	Age (years)	21–30	7	3.0
		31–40	61	24.0
		41–50	60	24.0
		51–60	102	40.0
		>60	23	9.0
		Total	253	100.0
3	Highest Educational Attainment	Junior High School	2	0.8
		Senior High School / Vocational High School	120	47.4
		Diploma I	6	2.4
		Diploma II	3	1.2
		Diploma III	3	1.2
		Diploma IV	1	0.4
		Bachelor's Degree	104	41.1
		Master's Degree	13	5.1
		Doctoral Degree	1	0.4
		Total	253	100.0
4	Position	Village Head	63	25.0
		Village Secretary	62	25.0
		Village Financial Officer	64	25.0
		Village Consultative Body (BPD)	64	25.0
		Total	253	100.0

Source: Primary data processed, 2026.

Research Instrument Testing Results

Instrument Validity Test

The validity test was conducted to assess the ability of each questionnaire item to measure the intended research construct. The preliminary test involved 32 respondents, resulting in 30 degrees of freedom (df) and a critical r-value of 0.349 at the 5% significance level. An item was considered valid if its calculated correlation coefficient (r-value) exceeded 0.349. The results indicate that all questionnaire items have positive correlation coefficients greater than the critical value. Therefore, all measurement items were declared valid and suitable for use as research instruments, allowing the analysis to proceed to the subsequent testing stage.

Table 4. Instrument Validity Test Results

Variable	Item	Calculated r	Critical r	Result
Village Apparatus Competence (X1)	X1.1	0.602	0.349	Valid
	X1.2	0.731	0.349	Valid
	X1.3	0.666	0.349	Valid
	X1.4	0.731	0.349	Valid
	X1.5	0.669	0.349	Valid
	X1.6	0.397	0.349	Valid
	X1.7	0.450	0.349	Valid
	X1.8	0.553	0.349	Valid
	X1.9	0.553	0.349	Valid
	X1.10	0.658	0.349	Valid
Community Participation (X2)	X2.1	0.595	0.349	Valid
	X2.2	0.516	0.349	Valid
	X2.3	0.696	0.349	Valid
	X2.4	0.529	0.349	Valid
	X2.5	0.669	0.349	Valid
	X2.6	0.761	0.349	Valid
Budget Target Clarity (X3)	X3.1	0.848	0.349	Valid
	X3.2	0.810	0.349	Valid
	X3.3	0.833	0.349	Valid
	X3.4	0.717	0.349	Valid
	X3.5	0.583	0.349	Valid
	X3.6	0.585	0.349	Valid
Village Fund Management Accountability (Y)	Y1.1	0.395	0.349	Valid
	Y1.2	0.586	0.349	Valid
	Y1.3	0.437	0.349	Valid
	Y1.4	0.387	0.349	Valid
	Y1.5	0.692	0.349	Valid
	Y1.6	0.632	0.349	Valid
	Y1.7	0.590	0.349	Valid
	Y1.8	0.533	0.349	Valid

Source: Primary data processed, 2026.

Instrument Reliability Test

Table 5. Instrument Reliability Test Results

Variable	Cronbach's Alpha	Standard	Result
Village Apparatus Competence	0.796	0.60	Reliable
Community Participation	0.691	0.60	Reliable
Budget Target Clarity	0.827	0.60	Reliable
Village Fund Management Accountability	0.676	0.60	Reliable

Source: Primary data processed, 2026.

Based on Table 5, all research variables demonstrate Cronbach's Alpha values exceeding 0.60, indicating that the research instruments satisfy the reliability criterion. Accordingly the questionnaire items measuring village apparatus competence, community participation, budget target clarity, and Village Fund management accountability are considered reliable and can consistently measure their respective constructs.

Descriptive Statistics Results

Table 6. Descriptive Statistics

Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Village Fund Management Accountability	253	10	32	29.80	2.81
Village Apparatus Competence	253	20	40	35.31	4.50
Community Participation	253	15	24	21.40	2.30
Budget Target Clarity	253	12	24	21.94	3.35
Valid N (listwise)	253				

Source: Primary data processed, 2026.

Based on Table 6, the descriptive statistics for each research variable can be explained as follows.

1) Village Fund Management Accountability

The Village Fund Management Accountability variable consisted of 253 respondents, with a minimum score of 10 and a maximum score of 32. The mean score of respondents' answers to the accountability measurement was 29.80. The standard deviation of 2.81 suggests moderate variability in respondents' answers, while the overall distribution remained relatively homogeneous without substantial deviations across respondents.

2) Village Apparatus Competence

The Village Apparatus Competence variable included 253 respondents, with scores ranging from 20 to 40. The mean score of respondents' answers to competence of village apparatus measurement was 35.31. The standard deviation of 4.50 reflects some variation in responses however, the data distribution remained relatively even, with no considerable disparities among respondents.

3) Community Participation

The Community Participation variable comprised 253 respondents, with a minimum score of 15 and a maximum score of 24. The mean score of respondents' answers to community participation measurement was 21.40. The standard deviation of 2.30 indicates moderate variation in responses, while the distribution of the data remained relatively uniform without significant deviations.

4) Budget Target Clarity

The Budget Target Clarity variable consisted of 253 respondents, with scores ranging from 12 to 24. The mean score of respondents' answers to budget target clarity measurement was 21.94. The standard deviation of 3.35 reflects some variability in responses nevertheless, the data distribution remained relatively homogeneous, with no substantial differences among respondents.

Measurement Model Assessment (Outer Model)

The outer model assessment was conducted to ensure that the measurement model satisfied the required validity and reliability criteria before examining the relationships among the latent variables in the structural model. In this study, the outer model evaluation included assessments of convergent validity, discriminant validity, and construct reliability. The measurement model used in this study is presented in Figure 1.

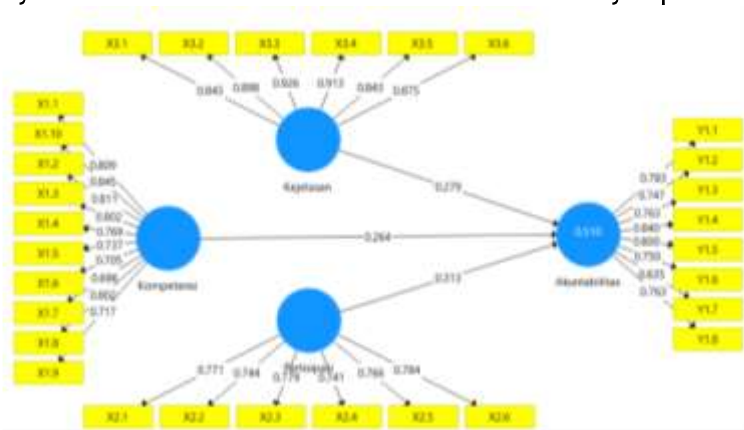

Figure 1. Measurement Model

1) Convergent Validity

Convergent validity was assessed by examining the factor loadings and the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) values. According to Ghozali (2021, p. 35), factor loading values ranging from 0.50 to 0.60 indicate that an indicator is considered valid, although higher values are generally preferred. A measurement model is regarded as satisfactory when each construct has an AVE value greater than 0.50, indicating that the construct explains more than half of the variance of its indicators. The results of the factor loadings and Average Variance Extracted (AVE) are presented in Table 7 and Table 8, respectively.

Table 7. Factor Loading Values

	Village Fund Management Accountability	Budget Target Clarity	Village Apparatus Competence	Community Participation
X1.1	–	–	0.809	–
X1.2	–	–	0.811	–
X1.3	–	–	0.802	–
X1.4	–	–	0.769	–
X1.5	–	–	0.737	–
X1.6	–	–	0.705	–
X1.7	–	–	0.696	–
X1.8	–	–	0.802	–
X1.9	–	–	0.717	–

	Village Fund Management Accountability	Budget Target Clarity	Village Apparatus Competence	Community Participation
X1.10	–	–	0.845	–
X2.1	–	–	–	0.771
X2.2	–	–	–	0.744
X2.3	–	–	–	0.779
X2.4	–	–	–	0.741
X2.5	–	–	–	0.766
X2.6	–	–	–	0.784
X3.1	–	0.845	–	–
X3.2	–	0.898	–	–
X3.3	–	0.926	–	–
X3.4	–	0.913	–	–
X3.5	–	0.843	–	–
X3.6	–	0.875	–	–
Y1.1	0.783	–	–	–
Y1.2	0.747	–	–	–
Y1.3	0.763	–	–	–
Y1.4	0.840	–	–	–
Y1.5	0.800	–	–	–
Y1.6	0.750	–	–	–
Y1.7	0.635	–	–	–
Y1.8	0.763	–	–	–

Source: Primary data processed, 2026

Table 8. Average Variance Extracted (AVE) Values

Variable	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
Village Fund Management Accountability	0.581
Budget Target Clarity	0.781
Village Apparatus Competence	0.594
Community Participation	0.584

Source: Primary data processed, 2026.

The results of the convergent validity assessment presented in Tables 7 and 8 indicate that all factor loading and Average Variance Extracted (AVE) values exceed the recommended threshold of 0.50. Therefore, it can be concluded that all measurement indicators satisfy the requirements for convergent validity.

2) Discriminant Validity

Discriminant validity was evaluated to ensure that each latent construct is empirically distinct from the other constructs in the model. This assessment was conducted using the Fornell–Larcker criterion and the Heterotrait–Monotrait ratio

(HTMT). Discriminant validity is considered satisfactory when the diagonal values in the Fornell–Larcker matrix are greater than the inter-construct correlations and when all HTMT values are below 0.90. The results are presented in Tables 9 and 10.

Table 9. Fornell–Larcker Criterion

	Village Fund Management Accountability	Budget Target Clarity	Village Apparatus Competence	Community Participation
Village Fund Management Accountability	**0.762**			
Budget Target Clarity	0.578	**0.884**		
Village Apparatus Competence	0.608	0.577	**0.771**	
Community Participation	0.598	0.465	0.584	**0.764**

Source: Primary data processed, 2026.

Table 10. Heterotrait–Monotrait Ratio (HTMT)

	Village Fund Management Accountability	Budget Target Clarity	Village Apparatus Competence	Community Participation
Village Fund Management Accountability				
Budget Target Clarity	0.622			
Village Apparatus Competence	0.657	0.614		
Community Participation	0.668	0.510	0.642	

Source: Primary data processed, 2026.

Based on Table 9, the diagonal values of each construct are higher than the corresponding correlations with other constructs, indicating that all constructs satisfy the Fornell–Larcker criterion for discriminant validity. Furthermore, Table 10 shows that all HTMT values are below the recommended threshold of 0.90, confirming that the measurement model demonstrates satisfactory discriminant validity.

3) Construct Reliability

Table 11. Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability

Variable	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability
Village Fund Management Accountability	0.896	0.917
Village Apparatus Competence	0.924	0.936
Community Participation	0.858	0.894

Variable	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability
Budget Target Clarity	0.944	0.955

Source: Primary data processed, 2026.

The results indicate that all constructs have Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability values exceeding the recommended threshold of 0.70. Therefore, it can be concluded that all constructs exhibit high internal consistency reliability, indicating that the measurement model is reliable and appropriate for subsequent structural model analysis.

Structural Model Assessment (Inner Model)

1) Coefficient of Determination (R^2)

Table 12. Coefficient of Determination (R^2)

Endogenous Construct	R^2
Village Fund Management Accountability	0.510

Source: Primary data processed, 2026.

As presented in Table 12, the coefficient of determination (R^2) for the structural model is 0.510, indicating that Village Apparatus Competence, Community Participation, and Budget Target Clarity collectively explain 51.0% of the variance in Village Fund Management Accountability. According to the PLS-SEM classification, this value represents a moderate explanatory power of the structural model. The remaining 49.0% of the variance is explained by other factors not included in the present research model.

Hypothesis Testing Results (Bootstrapping)

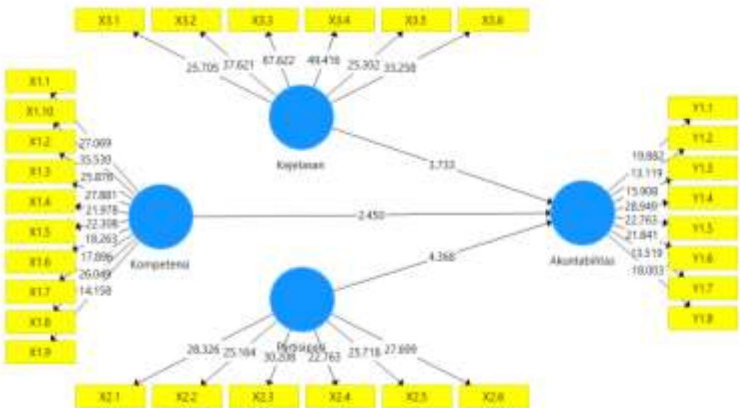

Figure 2. Structural Model

The direct effects among the study variables were further examined by evaluating the path coefficients for each structural relationship. The results of the direct effect analysis obtained from the bootstrapping procedure are presented in Table 13.

Table 13. Bootstrapping Testing Result

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T-Statistics (|O/STDEV|)	P-Values
Village Apparatus Competence →	0,264	0,270	0,108	2,450	0,015

Village Fund Management Accountability					
Community Participation → Village Fund Management Accountability	0,313	0,317	0,072	4,368	0,000
Budget Target Clarity → Village Fund Management Accountability	0,279	0,286	0,075	3,733	0,000

Source: Primary data processed, 2026.

Hypothesis testing was conducted by examining the t-statistics and p-values obtained from the bootstrapping procedure. A hypothesis was considered supported when the t-statistic exceeded 1.96 and the p-value was less than 0.05 at the 5% significance level. The results are summarized as follows.

1. Effect of Village Apparatus Competence on Village Fund Management Accountability
   The hypothesis testing yielded a t-statistic of 2.450, which is greater than 1.96, and a p-value of 0.015, which is below 0.05. H1 is supported. These findings indicate that Village Apparatus Competence has a positive effect on the accountability of Village Fund management.
2. Effect of Community Participation on Village Fund Management Accountability
   The hypothesis testing produced a t-statistic of 4.368, exceeding the critical value of 1.96, with a p-value of 0.000, which is below 0.05. H2 is supported. This result demonstrates that Community Participation has a positive effect on the accountability of Village Fund management.
3. Effect of Budget Target Clarity on Village Fund Management Accountability
   The hypothesis testing resulted in a t-statistic of 3.733, which is greater than 1.96, and a p-value of 0.000, which is below 0.05. H3 is supported. These findings indicate that Budget Target Clarity has a positive effect on the accountability of Village Fund management.

The findings of this study demonstrate that Village Apparatus Competence, Community Participation, and Budget Target Clarity each have a positive effect on the accountability of Village Fund management. Competent village apparatus are better equipped to manage Village Funds accurately, transparently, and in accordance with applicable regulations. Meanwhile, community participation functions as a social control mechanism that promotes transparency and strengthens the accountability of village governments. In addition, clearly defined budget objectives provide explicit guidance throughout the planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting stages, thereby ensuring that Village Funds are utilized more effectively, efficiently, and accountably. These findings suggest that improving the quality of village government personnel, strengthening community engagement, and establishing clear budget objectives are essential prerequisites for achieving accountable Village Fund governance.

The results are consistent with previous studies reporting that Village Apparatus Competence (Pratiwi & Dewi, 2021; Budiana et al., 2019; Diansari et al., 2023), Community

Participation (Aurelia et al., 2023; Cahyandari et al., 2024; Hafizurrahman et al., 2024), and Budget Target Clarity (Yuliastuti & Riharjo, 2020; Audia & Mulyani, 2023; Arta & Rasmini, 2019) positively influence the accountability of Village Fund management. Furthermore, these findings reinforce the relevance of Agency Theory, which conceptualizes village governments as agents responsible for managing and accounting for Village Funds on behalf of the community as the principal. Enhancing village apparatus competence, encouraging community participation, and establishing clear budget objectives can reduce information asymmetry, strengthen monitoring mechanisms, and improve transparency and accountability, thereby fostering trust between village governments and local communities.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and discussion regarding the effects of Village Apparatus Competence, Community Participation, and Budget Target Clarity on The Accountability of Village Fund Management, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. Village Apparatus Competence has a positive effect on the accountability of Village Fund management. This finding indicates that higher levels of competence among village apparatus contribute to greater accountability in managing Village Funds.
2. Community Participation has a positive effect on the accountability of Village Fund management. Greater community involvement in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of Village Fund management enhances the overall accountability of Village Fund governance.
3. Budget Target Clarity has a positive effect on the accountability of Village Fund management. Clearly defined budget objectives facilitate more accountable Village Fund management by providing measurable targets and clear guidance for planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

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