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Analysis of corruption risk and prevention efforts based on the perceptions of public service users in Merauke Regency

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Abstract*:* Corruption in local government in Indonesia, particularly in Merauke Regency, South Papua Province, undermines public trust and development. This study maps corruption risks from the perspective of service users, measures the impact of prevention, and develops recommendations through the 2024 KPK SPI, integrating Principal-Agent, Institutional, Collective Action, and Social Capital theories. Method: Quantitative (191 external respondents in 63 OPDs via CAPI), validated qualitatively (interviews with 9 key informants). Results: SPI score of 65.16 (highest in South Papua, national average), zero prevalence of corruption. Structural-geographical risks in remote districts (information asymmetry, unequal access, weak supervision). Positive (70% improvement) but asymmetrical impact of prevention measures (Integrity Zone, MCP, e-procurement). Recommendations from this study include the establishment of mobile Integrated Service Posts, community supervision, inclusive digitalization, and local culture training. Contribution: A bottom-up prevention model for WBK/WBBM and data-driven autonomous governance reform.
Keywords: Risk of Corruption; SPI; Prevention Effectiveness, Integrity; Merauke

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Introduction

Corruption in local government not only causes financial losses to the state, but also substantially damages economic growth and threatens public welfare (Sari & others, 2022) . Practices such as bribery, extortion, gratification, and abuse of authority for personal gain are still a threat in various agencies that interact directly with the public. This corruption arises from structural loopholes such as complicated administrative procedures, limited information disclosure, and ineffective supervision. Its impact goes beyond financial aspects, as it can erode public trust, hamper the development of essential infrastructure such as roads, schools, and health facilities, and widen the gap between the government and the community.

Indonesia, as the fourth most populous country in the world, faces increasingly complex corruption challenges in the era of globalization and digitalization. According to a report by Transparency International (2024), Indonesia's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) score is 37, still below the global average, indicating that despite progress, corruption remains an endemic problem that requires a holistic approach. At the regional level, corruption often stems from an imbalance of power, where regional autonomy mandated by Law No. 23 of 2014 on Regional Government can become a loophole for nepotism and collusion. For example, corruption cases in the procurement of goods and services often involve budget mark-ups that harm vulnerable communities, particularly in border areas such as Papua (Indonesia Corruption Watch, 2024).

To understand the roots of corruption more deeply, several contemporary theories from the latest academic literature can be applied. The Principal-Agent Theory, for example, explains corruption as a result of information asymmetry and incentive imbalance between the principal (the public or the central government) and the agent (local officials), where agents tend to pursue personal interests rather than public obligations (Graycar & Monaghan, 2024). This theory is relevant in developing countries, where weak oversight allows agents to abuse their authority, as discussed in a study on corruption prevention in African local government that emphasizes the

need for stronger accountability mechanisms (Adeyemi & Oluwatobi, 2019) . Furthermore, this theory has been applied to analyze how technologies such as blockchain can reduce the risk of corruption by increasing transparency in public procurement (Li et al., 2024) .

Institutional theory also provides an important framework, emphasizing that corruption is not merely individual behavior, but rather the result of weak institutions and social norms that support corrupt practices (Thompson, 2018). In the context of local government, this theory shows how decentralization can exacerbate corruption if it is not supported by strong institutional arrangements, as found in research on the relationship between decentralization and corruption at the city level (Bauhr & Charron, 2023). More recent studies further integrate structure, agency, and institutional logic to explain how corruption persists across different cultural contexts (Graycar & Monaghan, 2024).

Furthermore, Collective Action Theory offers the perspective that corruption in developing countries is often a collective action problem, where individuals are reluctant to fight corruption due to the perception that everyone is involved, so anti-corruption reforms fail if they do not involve broad cooperation (Pieth, 2025). This theory is relevant to prevention, emphasizing the role of society in monitoring government, as discussed in an analysis of the challenges of implementing anti-corruption policies in BRICS countries (Agerberg, 2023).

Finally, Social Capital Theory highlights how social networks and trust between citizens can be tools for preventing corruption, where strong social capital reduces the risk of corruption through community participation in public administration (Putnam, 2000), as cited in Wachs et al., 2019). Recent research shows that increasing social capital through community involvement can effectively control corruption at the village level, especially in developing countries (Akçay, 2024).

Indonesia has demonstrated its commitment through the ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2003 via Law Number 7 of 2006, the establishment of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), and the strengthening of regulations through Law Number 19 of 2019. However, a repressive approach alone is not sufficient. Corruption is a systemic problem that requires preventive strategies, not just legal sanctions, but also diagnostic tools to detect risks early on.

In addition, the government has implemented national initiatives such as the National Strategy for Corruption Prevention (Stranas PK), which is coordinated by the KPK together with relevant institutions. Stranas PK covers eight priority actions, including bureaucratic reform, strengthening internal oversight, and increasing community participation. At the local level, programs such as the Task Force for the Eradication of Illegal Levies (Saber Pungli) have succeeded in reducing illegal levies in several regions, although implementation varies between districts. This preventive approach is increasingly relevant in the digital age, where corruption can transform into cyber forms such as data manipulation in e-government systems.

This is where the role of the KPK's 2024 Integrity Assessment Survey (SPI) becomes crucial, involving researchers from various state universities. The SPI conducted by Musamus University is not merely a data collection instrument, but a reflection on governance from the perspective of public service users. Using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method, the SPI analyzes two main aspects: the level of corruption risk that still exists, and the effectiveness of prevention efforts such as the Integrity Zone, Monitoring Center for Prevention (MCP), and e-procurement systems.

The focus of this study is Merauke Regency, which is the center of South Papua Province based on Law Number 14 of 2022. Located in the Anim Ha customary area, Merauke has national significance as an integrated food development area (Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate/MIFEE). This region has the potential to become a national food granary in the future. However, behind the vast agricultural land and tropical forests, there are significant challenges: uneven infrastructure distribution, limited access to public services in remote districts such as Kimaam and Ulilin, and a bureaucratic culture that still faces issues of consistency and integrity.

Merauke Regency, with an area of approximately 45,013 km^2 and a population of around 237,200 (Central Statistics Agency, 2024), faces unique issues as a border region with Papua New Guinea. These geographical conditions exacerbate the risk of corruption, as oversight from the center is often hampered by limited transportation access.

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The 2024 SPI results are not just a routine report, but a strategic guide for improvement, an early warning signal for regional leaders, and empirical evidence that institutional transformation can be achieved with a commitment to listen, measure, and act. In Merauke Regency, this survey serves as the foundation for achieving the titles of Corruption-Free Zone (WBK) and Clean and Serving Bureaucracy Zone (WBBM)—not merely as labels, but as concrete commitments to restore public trust in government institutions.

The WBK and WBBM programs, launched by the Ministry of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform (Kemenpan-RB), have been successfully implemented in several other districts, such as Banyuwangi District, which achieved WBBM status through digital innovations such as e-services. In Merauke, the SPI survey can be a catalyst for similar adoption, with an emphasis on increasing transparency through public information portals and ethics training for civil servants.

This study aims to map corruption risks from the perspective of service recipients, measure the empirical impact of anti-corruption initiatives, and develop concrete recommendations for the prevention of corruption in the future. Thus, SPI 2024 is the starting point for the journey towards a transparent, accountable, and service-oriented government in Merauke Regency.

Overall, this study contributes to the academic understanding of local corruption while providing practical input for policymakers. By integrating the perspective of service users, it is hoped that a bottom-up corruption prevention model will be created, in which the community plays an active role as a partner in building government integrity. In the post-COVID-19 pandemic era, where public budgets are increasingly limited, corruption prevention has become even more urgent to ensure the efficient and effective use of public resources.

Methods

This study uses a primarily quantitative approach with qualitative validation. Quantitative data was obtained from the 2024 KPK Integrity Assessment Survey using the CAPI method, which ensures direct, structured, and minimally biased data collection. A sample of 191 external respondents (public service users) from 63 OPDs in Merauke Regency was selected proportionally based on the intensity of interaction. Qualitative validation took the form of in-depth interviews with 9 key informants (community leaders & repeat users) to explore context and recommendations. This method integrates empirical perceptions of the community with contextual analysis, resulting in a comprehensive mapping of corruption risks in Merauke Regency.

Theoretical Framework: Corruption as a Complex Phenomenon

This theoretical framework was developed to provide a strong conceptual basis for the research, integrating various theories relevant to the context of corruption in local government and supporting the use of the KPK's 2024 Integrity Assessment Survey (SPI) as a prevention tool; (1) Corruption as a Complex Phenomenon Corruption at the local level not only causes financial losses to the state, but also hinders economic growth and widens social inequality. Empirical studies show that corruption hinders economic growth in developing countries through reduced investment and inefficient resource allocation. Furthermore, based on a report by Transparency International (2024), Indonesia's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) score is 37, which is still below the global average, indicating that corruption is an endemic problem that requires a holistic approach, especially in autonomous regions such as Merauke Regency, which are prone to practices such as budget mark-ups and land conflicts; (2) Principal-Agent Theory This theory views corruption as arising from a conflict of interest between the principal (the public or central government) and the agent (public officials) who have an information advantage. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, n.d.) explains: "The principal-agent model assumes that agents (public officials) serve to protect the interests of the principal... However, in reality, the interests of the agents often diverge from the interests of the principal, and while the former can prescribe the pay-off rules… there is informational asymmetry to the advantage of the agent, which could be used by him or her for personal benefit." This theory is highly relevant to the risk of corruption in 63 OPDs in Merauke Regency, as measured through the perceptions of public service users in the 2024 SPI. The addition of the latest concept emphasizes its application in

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developing countries, where weak oversight allows agents to abuse their authority. Studies on corruption prevention in African local governments highlight the need for stronger accountability mechanisms, while the integration of technologies such as blockchain can reduce risk by increasing transparency in public procurement. This is in line with the challenges of information asymmetry in border areas such as Merauke; (3) Institutional Theory This theory focuses on how institutions (rules, norms, and organizational structures) shape behavior, where corruption is often systemic due to weak regulations or a permissive culture. This relates to the introduction, which discusses bureaucratic loopholes in Merauke Regency (such as convoluted procedures and lax supervision), as well as methods that integrate quantitative SPI data with qualitative interviews to comprehensively map risks. With the addition of the latest concepts, this theory emphasizes that corruption is not only individual behavior, but also the result of weak institutions and social norms that support corrupt practices. In the context of local government, decentralization can exacerbate corruption if it is not supported by strong institutional arrangements, as found in research on the relationship between decentralization and corruption at the city level. Recent studies integrate structure, agency, and institutional logic to explain how corruption persists in various cultural contexts, relevant to regional autonomy in Indonesia based on Law Number 23 of 2014; (4) Collective Action-Based Corruption Prevention Theory This theory views corruption as a collective issue that requires multi-stakeholder cooperation to change social norms and build trust. UNODC recommends coalition reform to address the normalization of corruption, in which tools such as SPI serve as preventive diagnostics, quoting: "Systemic corruption as a collective problem, because people rationalize their own behavior based on the perceptions of what others will do in the same situation... To combat corruption in these circumstances, there is a need for collective and coordinated approaches, such as reform coalitions or proactive alliances of like-minded organizations." This theory supports the goal of measuring the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives (such as e-procurement), which is measured through the perceptions of 191 respondents, as described in the introduction as a "preventive medicine" and a method involving qualitative validation from key informants. The addition of the latest concept reinforces the perspective that corruption in developing countries is often a collective action problem, where individuals are reluctant to fight back because of the perception that everyone is involved, so anti-corruption reforms fail if they do not involve broad cooperation. This theory is relevant to prevention, emphasizing the role of society in monitoring government, as discussed in the analysis of the challenges of implementing anti-corruption policies in BRICS countries; (5) Social Capital Theory This theory highlights how social networks and trust among citizens can be tools for preventing corruption, whereby strong social capital reduces the risk of corruption through community participation in public administration. Recent research shows that increasing social capital through community involvement can effectively control corruption at the village level, especially in developing countries. This concept adds a bottom-up dimension to corruption prevention, in line with the role of SPI 2024, which involves the perspective of service users in Merauke Regency, as well as initiatives such as community participation in Stranas PK and the WBK/WBBM program.

This theoretical framework integrates individual (Principal-Agent) and systemic (Institutional, Collective Action) and social (Social Capital) approaches to support three research objectives: mapping risks from the perspective of service recipients, measuring the impact of initiatives, and developing recommendations. It emphasizes data-driven prevention, aligns with SPI 2024 as a "roadmap for improvement" in the introduction, and ensures that the research is not only descriptive but also actionable to achieve WBK/WBBM in Merauke.

Results and Discussion

This study only analyzes Merauke Regency as its main focus, as indicated in the title. Quantitative data was obtained from the 2024 KPK Integrity Assessment Survey (SPI) conducted by Musamus University using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method on 191 external respondents (public service users) from 63 Regional Apparatus Organizations

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(OPD). Qualitative validation was conducted through in-depth interviews with 9 key informants in Merauke Regency (community leaders, traders, and repeat service users).

Merauke Regency SPI Index 2024

Merauke Regency achieved the highest score in South Papua Province in the 2024 SPI, but it still ranks in the middle range nationally.

Table 1. SPI score data 2024 for Merauke Regency

Component	Score	Description
Institutional & External Integrity	68	Highest in South Papua
Prevalence of Corruption	0	Not directly detected
Integrity of SPI Implementation	9.1	Good
Correction Factor	9.18	
Final SPI Score	65.16	Highest in South Papua Province

Source: Final SPI Report of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) 2024

The final score of 65.16 places Merauke Regency in first place among the four regencies in South Papua Province (far above Boven Digoel 59.35, Mappi 57.07, and Asmat 54.63), while also reflecting the best performance in the Anim Ha customary area. However, nationally, this score is still in the middle category (range 60–70), indicating that the foundation for corruption prevention in Merauke Regency is quite solid, but there is still significant room for improvement, particularly in strengthening procedural transparency, equalizing access to services in remote districts, and strengthening internal and external oversight—in order to advance to the high category (>75) and approach the status of Corruption-Free Zone (WBK) and Clean and Serving Bureaucracy Zone (WBBM).

Respondent Characteristics

There were 191 external respondents in this study, reflecting the diversity of public service users from 63 OPDs in Merauke Regency. The demographic distribution showed a balanced representation, with the majority of respondents being of productive age and having diverse backgrounds, which supported the validity of the perceptions collected.

Based on age group: 69% of respondents were aged 22–42 years, indicating the dominance of the productive age group that frequently interacts with public services such as population administration, business licensing, and social assistance. The age group above 42 years old (around 25%) represents users of infrastructure and health services, while those under 22 years old (6%) include young people who are pursuing education or employment.

By Gender: Women dominate with 56.5%, reflecting the high involvement of women in household affairs such as social assistance and family health. Men (43.5%) are more represented in the business and agriculture sectors, in line with Merauke Regency's potential as a food-producing region.

By Marital Status: The majority of respondents (around 65%) are married, indicating a focus on family services such as civil registration and child assistance. Single respondents (35%) tend to focus on education and employment services. This distribution ensures that community perceptions include diverse perspectives, including those from vulnerable groups such as people in remote districts, who often face gaps in service access.

Mapping the Dimensions of Corruption Risk

The analysis of corruption risk dimensions is based on respondents' perceptions of four main aspects: transparency, fairness of services, corruption prevention efforts, and employee integrity. Qualitative findings from interviews support the quantitative data, highlighting priority areas for improvement without detailing specific irregularities.

Transparency: the score for this dimension is relatively high (around 70% of respondents rated it positively), reflecting progress in e-government systems such as e-procurement and public information portals. However, 25% of respondents highlighted the lack of access to information in remote districts, where digital infrastructure is not yet evenly distributed. Informant interviews

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emphasized that budget transparency and auction procedures have increased trust, but broader socialization is needed to reduce perceptions of ambiguity.

Service Equity: 65% of respondents felt that services were equitable, especially in central government agencies such as the Population and Civil Registration Office. However, disparities were evident in peripheral areas, where 20% of respondents reported long waiting times and unequal treatment. Qualitative validation shows that geographical factors (such as distance to the district capital) contribute to this injustice, although efforts such as outreach programs have been initiated.

Corruption Prevention Efforts: This dimension received positive ratings from 68% of respondents, in line with the implementation of the MCP and Integrity Zones in several OPDs. Initiatives such as anti-corruption training and internal audits are considered effective, but 15% of respondents suggest strengthening external monitoring through civil society involvement. Interviews reveal that outreach programs have raised awareness, but need to be integrated with technology for anonymous reporting.

Employee Integrity: This dimension received the highest score (72%), with respondents appreciating the professionalism of employees in the education and health sectors. However, 18% highlighted the need for competency improvement, especially in districts with high employee turnover. Qualitative informants emphasized that the high level of integrity in Merauke is supported by the Anim Ha local culture's, but is vulnerable to external pressures such as resource constraints.

Overall, these dimensions indicate that Merauke Regency has a strong foundation for prevention, but risks remain in the areas of infrastructure and accessibility. Zero prevalence does not mean the absence of risk, but rather an opportunity for further investigation through additional audits.

Analysis of the Impact of Prevention Efforts

The results show that initiatives such as bureaucratic reform and digitization have had a positive impact, with 70% of respondents feeling that services have improved compared to the previous year. However, disparities in remote districts emphasize the need for an inclusive approach. Qualitative validation confirms that the SPI has encouraged the community to play a role in oversight, in line with the survey's objective of building public trust.

This study successfully addressed the three main objectives that had been formulated, namely (1) mapping corruption risks from the perspective of public service recipients, (2) measuring the real impact of various corruption prevention initiatives that have been implemented, and (3) compiling concrete evidence-based recommendations for future improvements. The findings of the 2024 SPI in Merauke Regency, with a final score of 65.16 (the highest in South Papua Province and in the middle range nationally), confirm that the foundations for corruption prevention are quite solid, but there is still significant room for improvement, especially in terms of equal access to services and strengthening oversight in remote areas.

Corruption Risk Mapping from the Perspective of Service Recipients

Empirical data from 191 external respondents who interact directly with 63 OPDs shows that the risk of corruption in Merauke Regency is structural and geographical in nature, rather than massive and transactional. The detected prevalence of corruption of "0" and the high integrity score of employees (72%) reflect the successful reduction of petty corruption in the last five years. However, transparency and service fairness scores that remain below 70% and qualitative findings from 9 key informants reveal that the highest risks lie in opportunity and rationalization within the Fraud Triangle framework (Cressey, 1953; Prabowo et al., 2018).

Opportunities arise from: uneven digital infrastructure in districts such as Kimaam, Ulilin, and Sota, meaning that information on service flows and official costs does not reach the community. Procedures that still allow "middlemen" (brokers) to operate in some licensing and social assistance services due to long distances and travel times. High employee turnover in remote districts weakens internal oversight and leads to the rationalization that "this is normal in remote areas." These findings are consistent with Principal-Agent Theory: information asymmetry still

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benefits agents (employees) in peripheral areas, while principals (the community) do not have sufficient access to conduct effective social oversight.

Measuring the Impact of Corruption Prevention Initiatives

The prevention initiatives implemented by the Integrity Zone, MCP KPK, e-procurement, SPAN-LAPOR, and integrity training have proven to have a significant positive impact. More than 70% of respondents stated that services were faster, cheaper, and more transparent than 3–5 years ago. The corruption prevention effort score (68%) and the undetected nature of bribery/gratification practices directly indicate that the collective action approach (Persson et al., 2013; UNODC) has begun to successfully change social norms in regency capitals and districts with accessible infrastructure.

However, the impact is still asymmetrical. In remote districts, the benefits of digitization and socialization are hardly felt. This confirms the argument of Institutional Theory (Sudibyo & Wu, 2014) that institutional pressure (rules and systems) is only effective if supported by implementation capacity at the lowest level. Geographical inequality becomes a "blind spot" that prevents national initiatives from fully reaching marginalized communities.

Concrete and Measurable Recommendations

Based on the integration of quantitative SPI data and qualitative validation, the following are priority recommendations that can be immediately implemented by the Merauke Regency Government to achieve an SPI score >75 and WBK/WBBM status in the next 3–5 years: (1) Equitable Access to Information and Services (addressing opportunity): Establish 20 mobile Integrated Service Posts (PLT) in remote districts (at least 2 per priority sub-district) equipped with offline-first tablets for ID card registration, family cards, simple business permits, and complaints; Require each OPD to install official fee information boards + QR code links to websites in Indonesian and local languages (Kanum, etc.) in every village; (2) Strengthening Community-Based Oversight (addressing rationalization): Form Participatory Oversight Teams (TPP) at the district level consisting of traditional leaders, religious leaders, women, and youth; trained by the KPK and given direct access to the whistleblowing system (WISLA KPK) with incentives for protection and rewards. Integrate SPI as a performance indicator for OPD heads and sub-district heads in SAKIP, with a minimum target increase of 5 points per year; (3) Inclusive Digitalization and Anonymous Reporting: Accelerate the "Merauke One Data - One Map" program so that all public services are integrated into a single offline-capable mobile application (similar to the regional version of Peduli Lindungi). Launch an official complaint channel and WhatsApp that can be accessed without internet quota, specifically for district communities; (4) Capacity Building and Planned Rotation; Implement a policy of "minimum 3 years of service" for civil servants in remote districts, accompanied by special incentives, to reduce disruption to supervision. Mandate annual training on Anim Ha traditional values for all civil servants and honorary staff.

Conclusion

Merauke Regency has shown remarkable progress: from an area often associated with corruption challenges in Papua, it is now the best in South Papua Province with zero detected prevalence of corruption and a solid foundation for prevention. However, the score of 65.16 reminds us that the journey towards a Corruption-Free Zone and a Clean and Serving Bureaucracy is not yet complete. The greatest risk now is no longer bribery at service counters, but rather inequality of access and gaps in oversight in remote areas.

SPI 2024 is not the end, but rather a crucial starting point. If the above recommendations are implemented seriously—by involving the community, customs, and inclusive technology—Merauke will not only achieve a score of >80 in the coming years, but also become a national model that data-driven, geographically equitable, and locally culturally-based corruption prevention is truly possible, even in the most challenging regions.

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Analisis risiko korupsi dan upaya pencegahan berdasarkan persepsi pengguna layanan publik di Kabupaten Merauke

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Abstrak*:* Korupsi di pemerintahan daerah Indonesia, khususnya Kabupaten Merauke, Provinsi Papua Selatan, merusak kepercayaan publik dan pembangunan. Penelitian ini memetakan risiko korupsi dari perspektif pengguna layanan, mengukur dampak pencegahan, dan menyusun rekomendasi melalui SPI KPK 2024, mengintegrasikan teori Principal-Agent, Institutional, *Collective Action*, dan *Social Capital*. Metode: Kuantitatif (191 responden eksternal di 63 OPD via CAPI), divalidasi kualitatif (wawancara 9 informan kunci). Hasil: Nilai SPI 65,16 (tertinggi di Papua Selatan, menengah nasional), prevalensi korupsi nol. Risiko struktural-geografis di distrik terpencil (asimetri informasi, akses tidak merata, pengawasan lemah). Dampak pencegahan (Zona Integritas, MCP, *e-procurement*) positif (70% perbaikan), tapi asimetris. Rekomendasi dari penelitian ini, pembuatan Pos Layanan Terpadu mobile, pengawasan masyarakat, digitalisasi inklusif, pelatihan budaya lokal. Kontribusi: Model pencegahan bottom-up untuk WBK/WBBM dan reformasi tata kelola otonom berbasis data empiris.
Kata kunci: Risiko Korupsi; SPI; Efektivitas Pencegahan, Integritas; Merauke

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Pendahuluan

Korupsi dalam pemerintahan daerah tidak hanya berupa kerugian finansial bagi negara, tetapi juga merusak pertumbuhan ekonomi dan mengancam kesejahteraan masyarakat secara substansial (Sari & others, 2022). Praktik-praktik seperti penyuapan, pemerasan, gratifikasi, dan penyalahgunaan wewenang untuk kepentingan pribadi masih menjadi ancaman di berbagai instansi yang berinteraksi langsung dengan masyarakat. Korupsi ini muncul dari celah-celah struktural seperti prosedur administratif yang rumit, keterbukaan informasi yang terbatas, serta pengawasan yang tidak efektif. Dampaknya melampaui aspek keuangan, karena dapat mengikis kepercayaan publik, menghambat pembangunan infrastruktur esensial seperti jalan, sekolah, dan fasilitas kesehatan, serta memperlebar ketimpangan antara pemerintah dan masyarakat.

Indonesia, sebagai negara dengan populasi terbesar keempat di dunia, menghadapi tantangan korupsi yang semakin kompleks di era globalisasi dan digitalisasi. Berdasarkan laporan Transparency International (2024), skor Indeks Persepsi Korupsi (CPI) Indonesia adalah 37, masih berada di bawah rata-rata global, menandakan bahwa meskipun terdapat kemajuan, korupsi tetap menjadi masalah endemik yang memerlukan pendekatan holistik. Pada tingkat daerah, korupsi sering kali berakar dari ketidakseimbangan kekuasaan, di mana otonomi daerah yang diamanatkan oleh Undang-Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2014 tentang Pemerintahan Daerah dapat menjadi celah bagi praktik nepotisme dan kolusi. Sebagai contoh, kasus korupsi di sektor pengadaan barang dan jasa sering melibatkan mark-up anggaran yang merugikan kelompok masyarakat rentan, khususnya di wilayah perbatasan seperti Papua (Indonesia Corruption Watch, 2024).

Memahami akar korupsi secara lebih mendalam, beberapa teori kontemporer dari literatur akademis terkini dapat diterapkan. Teori Principal-Agent, misalnya, menjelaskan korupsi sebagai hasil dari asimetri informasi dan ketidakseimbangan insentif antara principal (masyarakat atau pemerintah pusat) dan agent (pejabat daerah), di mana agent cenderung mengejar kepentingan pribadi daripada kewajiban publik (Graycar & Monaghan, 2024). Teori ini relevan di negara

berkembang, di mana pengawasan lemah memungkinkan agent untuk menyalahgunakan wewenang, sebagaimana dibahas dalam studi tentang pencegahan korupsi di pemerintahan lokal Afrika yang menekankan perlunya mekanisme akuntabilitas yang lebih kuat (Adeyemi & Oluwatobi, 2019). Selain itu, teori ini telah diaplikasikan untuk menganalisis bagaimana teknologi seperti blockchain dapat mengurangi risiko korupsi dengan meningkatkan transparansi dalam pengadaan publik (Li et al., 2024).

Teori Institutional juga memberikan kerangka penting, dengan menekankan bahwa korupsi bukan hanya perilaku individu, melainkan hasil dari institusi yang lemah dan norma sosial yang mendukung praktik koruptif (Thompson, 2018). Dalam konteks pemerintahan daerah, teori ini menunjukkan bagaimana desentralisasi dapat memperburuk korupsi jika tidak didukung oleh pengaturan institusional yang kuat, seperti yang ditemukan dalam penelitian tentang hubungan antara desentralisasi dan korupsi di tingkat kota (Bauhr & Charron, 2023). Studi terbaru lebih lanjut mengintegrasikan struktur, agen, dan logika institusional untuk menjelaskan bagaimana korupsi bertahan di berbagai konteks budaya (Graycar & Monaghan, 2024).

Selanjutnya, Teori *Collective Action* menawarkan perspektif bahwa korupsi di negara berkembang sering kali merupakan masalah aksi kolektif, di mana individu enggan melawan korupsi karena persepsi bahwa semua orang terlibat, sehingga reformasi anti-korupsi gagal jika tidak melibatkan kerjasama luas (Pieth, 2025). Teori ini relevan untuk pencegahan, dengan menekankan peran masyarakat dalam memantau pemerintahan, sebagaimana dibahas dalam analisis tentang tantangan implementasi kebijakan anti-korupsi di negara BRICS (Agerberg, 2023).

Akhirnya, Teori *Social Capital* menyoroti bagaimana jaringan sosial dan kepercayaan antarwarga dapat menjadi alat pencegahan korupsi, di mana modal sosial yang kuat mengurangi risiko korupsi melalui partisipasi masyarakat dalam administrasi publik (Putnam, 2000), as cited in Wachs et al., 2019). Penelitian terkini menunjukkan bahwa peningkatan modal sosial melalui keterlibatan komunitas dapat efektif mengendalikan korupsi di tingkat desa, terutama di negara berkembang (Akçay, 2024).

Indonesia telah menunjukkan komitmennya melalui ratifikasi *United Nations Convention Against Corruption* (UNCAC) tahun 2003 via Undang-Undang Nomor 7 Tahun 2006, pendirian Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi (KPK), serta penguatan regulasi melalui Undang-Undang Nomor 19 Tahun 2019. Namun, pendekatan represif semata tidak memadai. Korupsi merupakan masalah sistemik yang memerlukan strategi preventif, bukan hanya sanksi hukum, melainkan instrumen diagnostik untuk mendeteksi risiko sejak dini.

Selain itu, pemerintah telah mengimplementasikan inisiatif nasional seperti Strategi Nasional Pencegahan Korupsi (Stranas PK), yang dikoordinasikan oleh KPK bersama lembaga terkait. Stranas PK mencakup delapan aksi prioritas, termasuk reformasi birokrasi, penguatan pengawasan internal, dan peningkatan partisipasi masyarakat. Pada tingkat lokal, program seperti Satuan Tugas Sapu Bersih Pungutan Liar (Saber Pungli) telah berhasil mengurangi praktik pungutan liar di beberapa daerah, meskipun implementasinya bervariasi antar kabupaten. Pendekatan preventif ini semakin relevan di era digital, di mana korupsi dapat bertransformasi menjadi bentuk siber seperti manipulasi data dalam sistem e-government.

Di sinilah peran Survei Penilaian Integritas (SPI) KPK tahun 2024 menjadi krusial, dengan melibatkan peneliti dari berbagai Perguruan Tinggi Negeri. SPI yang dilaksanakan oleh Universitas Musamus bukan sekadar instrumen pengumpulan data, melainkan refleksi atas tata kelola pemerintahan dari perspektif pengguna layanan publik. Menggunakan metode *Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing* (CAPI), SPI menganalisis dua aspek utama: tingkat risiko korupsi yang masih ada, serta efektivitas upaya pencegahan seperti Zona Integritas, *Monitoring Center for Prevention* (MCP), dan sistem e-*procurement*.

Fokus penelitian ini adalah Kabupaten Merauke, yang merupakan pusat Provinsi Papua Selatan berdasarkan Undang-Undang Nomor 14 Tahun 2022. Berlokasi di wilayah adat Anim Ha, Merauke memiliki signifikansi nasional sebagai kawasan pengembangan pangan terpadu (Merauke *Integrated Food and Energy Estate*/MIFEE). Wilayah ini menyimpan potensi sebagai lumbung pangan nasional di masa depan. Namun, di balik luasnya lahan pertanian dan hutan tropis, terdapat tantangan signifikan: distribusi infrastruktur yang tidak merata, akses layanan publik

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yang terbatas di distrik terpencil seperti Kimaam dan Ulilin, serta budaya birokrasi yang masih menghadapi isu konsistensi integritas.

Kabupaten Merauke, dengan luas wilayah sekitar 45.013 km^2 dan populasi sekitar 237.200 jiwa (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2024), menghadapi isu unik sebagai daerah perbatasan dengan Papua Nugini. Kondisi geografis ini memperburuk risiko korupsi, karena pengawasan dari pusat sering terhambat oleh keterbatasan akses transportasi.

Hasil SPI 2024 bukan hanya laporan rutin, melainkan panduan strategis untuk perbaikan, sinyal peringatan dini bagi pemimpin daerah, serta bukti empiris bahwa transformasi institusional dapat dicapai dengan komitmen untuk mendengar, mengukur, dan bertindak. Di Kabupaten Merauke, survei ini menjadi fondasi menuju predikat Wilayah Bebas dari Korupsi (WBK) dan Wilayah Birokrasi Bersih Melayani (WBBM)—bukan sebagai label semata, tetapi sebagai komitmen konkret untuk memulihkan kepercayaan publik terhadap institusi pemerintahan.

Program WBK dan WBBM, yang digulirkan oleh Kementerian Pendayagunaan Aparatur Negara dan Reformasi Birokrasi (Kemenpan-RB), telah berhasil diimplementasikan di beberapa kabupaten lain, seperti Kabupaten Banyuwangi yang mencapai predikat WBBM melalui inovasi digital seperti e-layanan. Di Merauke, survei SPI dapat menjadi katalisator untuk adopsi serupa, dengan penekanan pada peningkatan transparansi melalui portal informasi publik dan pelatihan etika bagi aparatur sipil negara.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memetakan risiko korupsi dari perspektif penerima layanan, mengukur dampak empiris dari inisiatif antikorupsi, serta menyusun rekomendasi perbaikan yang konkret untuk pencegahan tindak pidana korupsi di masa mendatang. Dengan demikian, SPI 2024 menjadi titik awal bagi perjalanan menuju pemerintahan yang transparan, akuntabel, dan berorientasi pada pelayanan di Kabupaten Merauke.

Secara keseluruhan, penelitian ini berkontribusi pada pemahaman akademis tentang korupsi lokal sekaligus memberikan masukan praktis bagi pembuat kebijakan. Dengan mengintegrasikan perspektif pengguna layanan, diharapkan tercipta model pencegahan korupsi yang berbasis *bottom-up,* di mana masyarakat berperan sebagai mitra aktif dalam membangun integritas pemerintahan. Di era pasca-pandemi COVID-19, di mana anggaran publik semakin terbatas, pencegahan korupsi menjadi semakin mendesak untuk memastikan efisiensi dan efektivitas penggunaan sumber daya publik.

Metode

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif utama dengan validasi kualitatif. Data kuantitatif berasal dari hasil Survei Penilaian Integritas KPK 2024 melalui metode CAPI, yang memastikan pengumpulan data langsung, terstruktur, dan minim bias. Sampel sebanyak 191 responden eksternal (pengguna layanan publik) dari 63 OPD di Kabupaten Merauke, dipilih proporsional berdasarkan intensitas interaksi. Validasi kualitatif berupa wawancara mendalam terhadap 9 informan kunci (tokoh masyarakat & pengguna berulang) untuk menggali konteks dan rekomendasi. Metode ini mengintegrasikan persepsi empiris masyarakat dengan analisis kontekstual, menghasilkan pemetaan risiko korupsi yang komprehensif di Kabupaten Merauke.

Landasan Teori: Korupsi sebagai Fenomena Kompleks

Landasan teori ini dibangun untuk memberikan dasar konseptual yang kuat bagi penelitian, dengan mengintegrasikan berbagai teori yang relevan dengan konteks korupsi di pemerintahan daerah, serta mendukung penggunaan Survei Penilaian Integritas (SPI) KPK 2024 sebagai alat pencegahan. (1) Korupsi sebagai Fenomena Kompleks. Korupsi di tingkat lokal bukan hanya menyebabkan kerugian keuangan negara, tetapi juga menghambat pertumbuhan ekonomi dan memperlebar ketimpangan sosial. Studi empirik menunjukkan bahwa korupsi menghambat pertumbuhan ekonomi di negara-negara berkembang melalui penurunan investasi dan inefisiensi alokasi sumber daya. Selain itu, berdasarkan laporan Transparency International (2024), skor Indeks Persepsi Korupsi (CPI) Indonesia adalah 37, masih di bawah rata-rata global, menandakan korupsi sebagai masalah endemik yang memerlukan pendekatan holistik, terutama di daerah otonom seperti Kabupaten Merauke yang rentan terhadap praktik seperti mark-up anggaran dan

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konflik lahan; (2) Teori Principal-Agent. Teori ini memandang korupsi muncul akibat konflik kepentingan antara principal (masyarakat atau pemerintah pusat) dan agent (pejabat publik) yang memiliki keunggulan informasi. *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime* (UNODC, n.d.) menjelaskan: "*The principal-agent model assumes that agents (public officials) serve to protect the interests of the principal... However, in reality, the interests of the agents often diverge from the interests of the principal, and while the former can prescribe the pay-off rules... there is informational asymmetry to the advantage of the agent, which could be used by him or her for personal benefit.*" Teori ini sangat relevan dengan risiko korupsi pada 63 OPD di Kabupaten Merauke yang diukur melalui persepsi pengguna layanan publik dalam SPI 2024. Penambahan konsep terbaru menekankan aplikasi di negara berkembang, di mana pengawasan lemah memungkinkan agent menyalahgunakan wewenang. Studi tentang pencegahan korupsi di pemerintahan lokal Afrika menyoroti perlunya mekanisme akuntabilitas yang lebih kuat, sementara integrasi teknologi seperti blockchain dapat mengurangi risiko dengan meningkatkan transparansi dalam pengadaan publik. Ini selaras dengan tantangan asimetri informasi di wilayah perbatasan seperti Merauke; (3) Teori Institusional. Teori ini fokus pada bagaimana institusi (aturan, norma, dan struktur organisasi) membentuk perilaku, di mana korupsi sering sistemik karena regulasi lemah atau budaya permisif. Ini terkait dengan pendahuluan yang membahas celah birokrasi di Kabupaten Merauke (seperti prosedur berbelit dan pengawasan longgar), serta metode yang mengintegrasikan data kuantitatif SPI dengan wawancara kualitatif untuk memetakan risiko secara komprehensif.Dengan penambahan konsep terbaru, teori ini menekankan bahwa korupsi bukan hanya perilaku individu, melainkan hasil dari institusi yang lemah dan norma sosial yang mendukung praktik koruptif. Dalam konteks pemerintahan daerah, desentralisasi dapat memperburuk korupsi jika tidak didukung oleh pengaturan institusional yang kuat, seperti yang ditemukan dalam penelitian tentang hubungan antara desentralisasi dan korupsi di tingkat kota. Studi terkini mengintegrasikan struktur, agen, dan logika institusional untuk menjelaskan bagaimana korupsi bertahan di berbagai konteks budaya, relevan dengan otonomi daerah di Indonesia berdasarkan Undang-Undang Nomor 23 Tahun 2014; (4) Teori Pencegahan Korupsi Berbasis *Collective Action*. Teori ini memandang korupsi sebagai isu kolektif yang memerlukan kerjasama multi-pihak untuk mengubah norma sosial dan membangun kepercayaan. UNODC merekomendasikan reformasi koalisi untuk mengatasi normalisasi korupsi, di mana alat seperti SPI berfungsi sebagai diagnostik preventif, dengan kutipan: "*Systemic corruption as a collective problem, because people rationalize their own behaviour based on the perceptions of what others will do in the same situation... To combat corruption in these circumstances, there is a need for collective and coordinated approaches, such as reform coalitions or proactive alliances of like-minded organizations.*" Teori ini mendukung tujuan mengukur efektivitas inisiatif anti-korupsi (seperti *e-procurement*), yang diukur melalui persepsi 191 responden, sebagaimana dijelaskan dalam pendahuluan sebagai "obat preventif" dan metode yang melibatkan validasi kualitatif dari informan kunci. Penambahan konsep terbaru memperkuat perspektif bahwa korupsi di negara berkembang sering merupakan masalah aksi kolektif, di mana individu enggan melawan karena persepsi bahwa semua orang terlibat, sehingga reformasi anti-korupsi gagal jika tidak melibatkan kerjasama luas. Teori ini relevan untuk pencegahan, dengan menekankan peran masyarakat dalam memantau pemerintahan, sebagaimana dibahas dalam analisis tentang tantangan implementasi kebijakan anti-korupsi di negara BRICS; (5) Teori *Social Capital* Teori ini menyoroti bagaimana jaringan sosial dan kepercayaan antarwarga dapat menjadi alat pencegahan korupsi, di mana modal sosial yang kuat mengurangi risiko korupsi melalui partisipasi masyarakat dalam administrasi publik. Penelitian terkini menunjukkan bahwa peningkatan modal sosial melalui keterlibatan komunitas dapat efektif mengendalikan korupsi di tingkat desa, terutama di negara berkembang. Konsep ini menambahkan dimensi bottom-up pada pencegahan korupsi, selaras dengan peran SPI 2024 yang melibatkan perspektif pengguna layanan di Kabupaten Merauke, serta inisiatif seperti partisipasi masyarakat dalam Stranas PK dan program WBK/WBBM.

Landasan teori ini mengintegrasikan pendekatan individual (*Principal-Agent*) dengan sistemik (Institusional, *Collective Action*) dan sosial (*Social Capital*) untuk mendukung tiga tujuan penelitian: memetakan risiko dari perspektif penerima layanan, mengukur dampak inisiatif, dan menyusun rekomendasi. Ini menekankan pencegahan berbasis data, selaras dengan SPI 2024 sebagai

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"peta jalan perbaikan" di pendahuluan, dan memastikan penelitian tidak hanya deskriptif tapi juga actionable untuk mencapai WBK/WBBM di Merauke.

Hasil dan Pembahasan

Penelitian ini hanya menganalisis Kabupaten Merauke sebagai fokus utama, sesuai judul. Data kuantitatif berasal dari Survei Penilaian Integritas (SPI) KPK 2024 yang dilaksanakan Universitas Musamus menggunakan metode Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) pada 191 responden eksternal (masyarakat pengguna layanan publik) dari 63 Organisasi Perangkat Daerah (OPD). Validasi kualitatif dilakukan melalui wawancara mendalam terhadap 9 informan kunci di Kabupaten Merauke (tokoh masyarakat, pedagang, dan pengguna layanan berulang).

Indeks SPI Kabupaten Merauke Tahun 2024

Kabupaten Merauke memperoleh nilai tertinggi di Provinsi Papua Selatan pada SPI 2024, namun masih berada di kisaran menengah secara nasional.

Tabel 1. Data nilai SPI 2024 di Kabupaten Merauke

Komponen	Nilai	Keterangan
Integritas Instansi & Eksternal	68,58	Tertinggi di Papua Selatan
Prevalensi Korupsi	0	Tidak terdeteksi secara langsung
Integritas Pelaksanaan SPI	9,18	Baik
Faktor Koreksi	9,18	
Nilai Akhir SPI	65,16	Tertinggi di Provinsi Papua Selatan

Sumber: Laporan Akhir SPI KPK 2024

Nilai akhir 65,16 menempatkan Kabupaten Merauke pada peringkat pertama di antara empat kabupaten di Provinsi Papua Selatan (jauh di atas Boven Digoel 59,35, Mappi 57,07, dan Asmat 54,63), sekaligus mencerminkan performa terbaik di wilayah adat Anim Ha. Meski demikian, secara nasional nilai ini masih berada pada kategori menengah (rentang 60–70), yang menunjukkan bahwa fondasi pencegahan korupsi di Kabupaten Merauke sudah cukup solid, tetapi masih terdapat ruang perbaikan signifikan, khususnya dalam memperkuat transparansi prosedur, pemerataan akses layanan di distrik terpencil, serta penguatan pengawasan internal dan eksternal—agar dapat melaju menuju kategori tinggi (>75) dan mendekati predikat Wilayah Bebas dari Korupsi (WBK) serta Wilayah Birokrasi Bersih dan Melayani (WBBM).

Karakteristik Responden

Responden eksternal dalam penelitian ini berjumlah 191 orang, yang mencerminkan keragaman pengguna layanan publik dari 63 OPD Kabupaten Merauke. Distribusi demografi menunjukkan representasi yang seimbang, dengan mayoritas responden berusia produktif dan memiliki latar belakang beragam, yang mendukung validitas persepsi yang dikumpulkan.

Berdasarkan Kelompok Usia: sebanyak 69% responden berusia 22–42 tahun, menunjukkan dominasi kelompok usia produktif yang sering berinteraksi dengan layanan publik seperti administrasi kependudukan, perizinan usaha, dan bantuan sosial. Kelompok usia di atas 42 tahun (sekitar 25%) mewakili pengguna layanan infrastruktur dan kesehatan, sementara usia di bawah 22 tahun (6%) mencakup pemuda yang mengurus pendidikan atau pekerjaan.

Berdasarkan Jenis Kelamin: perempuan mendominasi dengan 56,5%, mencerminkan keterlibatan tinggi kaum perempuan dalam urusan rumah tangga seperti bantuan sosial dan kesehatan keluarga. Laki-laki (43,5%) lebih banyak mewakili sektor usaha dan pertanian, selaras dengan potensi Kabupaten Merauke sebagai kawasan pangan.

Berdasarkan Status Pernikahan: Mayoritas responden (sekitar 65%) sudah menikah, yang menunjukkan fokus pada layanan keluarga seperti pencatatan sipil dan bantuan anak. Responden lajang (35%) cenderung berfokus pada layanan pendidikan dan pekerjaan. Distribusi ini memastikan bahwa persepsi masyarakat mencakup perspektif beragam, termasuk dari kelompok rentan seperti masyarakat di distrik terpencil, yang sering menghadapi kesenjangan akses layanan.

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Pemetaan Dimensi Risiko Korupsi

Analisis dimensi risiko korupsi didasarkan pada persepsi responden terhadap empat aspek utama: transparansi, keadilan layanan, upaya pencegahan korupsi, dan integritas pegawai. Temuan kualitatif dari wawancara mendukung data kuantitatif, menyoroti area prioritas perbaikan tanpa merinci penyimpangan spesifik.

Transparansi: skor dimensi ini relatif tinggi (sekitar 70% responden menilai positif), mencerminkan kemajuan dalam sistem *e-government* seperti *e-procurement* dan portal informasi publik. Namun, 25% responden menyoroti kurangnya akses informasi di distrik terpencil, di mana infrastruktur digital belum merata. Wawancara informan menekankan bahwa transparansi anggaran dan prosedur lelang telah meningkatkan kepercayaan, tetapi perlu sosialisasi lebih luas untuk mengurangi persepsi ketidakjelasan.

Keadilan Layanan: sebanyak 65% responden merasa layanan adil, terutama di OPD pusat seperti Dinas Kependudukan dan Pencatatan Sipil. Namun, kesenjangan terlihat di wilayah pinggiran, di mana 20% responden melaporkan waktu tunggu yang panjang dan perlakuan tidak merata. Validasi kualitatif menunjukkan bahwa faktor geografis (seperti jarak ke ibu kota kabupaten) berkontribusi pada ketidakadilan ini, meskipun upaya seperti program outreach telah dimulai.

Upaya Pencegahan Korupsi: Dimensi ini mendapat penilaian positif dari 68% responden, selaras dengan implementasi MCP dan Zona Integritas di beberapa OPD. Inisiatif seperti pelatihan antikorupsi dan audit internal dinilai efektif, tetapi 15% responden menyarankan penguatan monitoring eksternal melalui keterlibatan masyarakat sipil. Wawancara mengungkap bahwa program sosialisasi telah meningkatkan kesadaran, tetapi perlu diintegrasikan dengan teknologi untuk pelaporan anonim.

Integritas Pegawai: Skor tertinggi di dimensi ini (72%), dengan responden menghargai profesionalisme pegawai di sektor pendidikan dan kesehatan. Namun, 18% menyoroti kebutuhan peningkatan kompetensi, terutama di distrik dengan rotasi pegawai tinggi. Informan kualitatif menekankan bahwa integritas tinggi di Merauke didukung oleh budaya lokal Anim Ha, tetapi rentan terhadap tekanan eksternal seperti keterbatasan sumber daya. Secara keseluruhan, dimensi-dimensi ini menunjukkan bahwa Kabupaten Merauke memiliki fondasi pencegahan yang kuat, tetapi risiko tetap ada di area infrastruktur dan aksesibilitas. Prevalensi nol tidak berarti absennya risiko, melainkan peluang untuk pendalaman melalui audit lebih lanjut.

Analisis Dampak Usaha Pencegahan

Hasil menunjukkan bahwa inisiatif seperti reformasi birokrasi dan digitalisasi telah memberikan dampak positif, dengan 70% responden merasakan perbaikan layanan dibandingkan tahun sebelumnya. Namun, kesenjangan di distrik terpencil menekankan perlunya pendekatan inklusif. Validasi kualitatif mengonfirmasi bahwa SPI telah mendorong peran masyarakat dalam pengawasan, selaras dengan tujuan survei untuk membangun kepercayaan publik.

Penelitian ini berhasil menjawab ketiga tujuan utama yang telah dirumuskan, yaitu (1) memetakan risiko korupsi dari sudut pandang penerima layanan publik; (2) mengukur dampak nyata dari berbagai inisiatif pencegahan korupsi yang telah dijalankan; dan (3) menyusun rekomendasi konkret berbasis bukti untuk perbaikan di masa depan. Temuan SPI 2024 di Kabupaten Merauke, dengan nilai akhir 65,16 (tertinggi di Provinsi Papua Selatan dan kategori menengah secara nasional), menegaskan bahwa fondasi pencegahan korupsi sudah cukup solid, tetapi masih terdapat ruang perbaikan yang signifikan, terutama pada aspek pemerataan akses layanan dan penguatan pengawasan di wilayah terpencil.

Pemetaan Risiko Korupsi dari Perspektif Penerima Layanan

Data empiris dari 191 responden eksternal yang berinteraksi langsung dengan 63 OPD menunjukkan bahwa risiko korupsi di Kabupaten Merauke bersifat struktural dan geografis, bukan lagi masif-transaksional. Prevalensi korupsi yang terdeteksi "0" dan skor integritas pegawai yang tinggi (72%) mencerminkan berhasilnya penurunan praktik korupsi kecil (*petty corruption*) dalam lima tahun terakhir. Namun, skor transparansi dan keadilan layanan yang

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masih di bawah 70% serta temuan kualitatif dari 9 informan kunci mengungkap bahwa risiko tertinggi justru berada pada opportunity dan rationalization dalam kerangka Fraud Triangle (Cressey, 1953; Prabowo et al., 2018).

Celah peluang muncul dari: infrastruktur digital yang belum merata di distrik seperti Kimaam, Ulilin, dan Sota sehingga informasi alur layanan dan biaya resmi tidak sampai ke masyarakat. Prosedur yang masih memungkinkan "perantara" (calo) beroperasi di beberapa layanan perizinan dan bantuan sosial karena jarak dan waktu tempuh yang panjang. Rotasi pegawai yang tinggi di distrik terpencil sehingga pengawasan internal melemah dan muncul rasionalisasi "ini sudah biasa di daerah terpencil". Temuan ini selaras dengan *Teori Principal-Agent*: asimetri informasi masih menguntungkan agent (pegawai) di wilayah perifer, sementara principal (masyarakat) tidak memiliki cukup akses untuk melakukan pengawasan sosial yang efektif.

Pengukuran Dampak Inisiatif Pencegahan Korupsi

Inisiatif pencegahan yang telah dijalankan Zona Integritas, MCP KPK, e-procurement, SPAN-LAPOR, dan pelatihan integritas—terbukti memberikan dampak positif yang signifikan. Lebih dari 70% responden menyatakan layanan lebih cepat, lebih murah, dan lebih transparan dibandingkan 3–5 tahun sebelumnya. Skor upaya pencegahan korupsi (68%) dan tidak terdeteksinya praktik penyuapan/gratifikasi secara langsung menunjukkan bahwa pendekatan collective action (Persson et al., 2013; UNODC) mulai berhasil mengubah norma sosial di ibu kota kabupaten dan distrik yang terjangkau infrastruktur.

Namun, dampak tersebut masih bersifat asimetris. Di distrik terpencil, manfaat digitalisasi dan sosialisasi hampir tidak terasa. Hal ini mengonfirmasi argumen Teori Institusional (Sudibyo & Wu, 2014) bahwa tekanan institusional (aturan dan sistem) hanya efektif jika didukung oleh kapasitas implementasi di tingkat paling bawah. Ketimpangan geografis menjadi "titik buta" yang membuat inisiatif nasional belum sepenuhnya mendarat di masyarakat marjinal.

Rekomendasi Konkret dan Terukur

Berdasarkan integrasi data kuantitatif SPI dan validasi kualitatif, berikut rekomendasi prioritas yang langsung dapat diimplementasikan oleh Pemerintah Kabupaten Merauke untuk menuju skor SPI >75 dan predikat WBK/WBBM dalam 3–5 tahun ke depan: (1) Pemerataan Akses Informasi dan Layanan (mengatasi opportunity): Bangun 20 Pos Layanan Terpadu (PLT) mobile di distrik terpencil (minimal 2 per kecamatan prioritas) yang dilengkapi tablet offline-first untuk pendaftaran KTP, KK, izin usaha sederhana, dan pengaduan; Wajibkan setiap OPD memasang papan informasi biaya resmi + QR code link ke website dalam bahasa Indonesia dan bahasa lokal (Kanum, dll) di setiap kampung; (2) Penguatan Pengawasan Berbasis Masyarakat (mengatasi rationalization): Bentuk Tim Pengawas Partisipatif (TPP) di tingkat distrik yang beranggotakan tokoh adat, tokoh agama, perempuan, dan pemuda; dilatih KPK dan diberi akses langsung ke *whistleblowing system* (WISLA KPK) dengan insentif perlindungan dan penghargaan. Integrasikan SPI sebagai indikator kinerja kepala OPD dan camat dalam SAKIP, dengan target kenaikan minimal 5 poin per tahun; (3) Digitalisasi Inklusif dan Pelaporan Anonim: Percepat program "Merauke Satu Data – Satu Peta" agar semua layanan publik terintegrasi dalam satu aplikasi mobile offline-capable (mirip Peduli Lindungi versi daerah). Luncurkan kanal pengaduan dan WhatsApp resmi yang dapat diakses tanpa kuota internet, khusus untuk masyarakat distrik; (4) Penguatan Kapasitas dan Rotasi Terencana; Terapkan kebijakan "minimum 3 tahun masa tugas" bagi ASN di distrik terpencil disertai insentif khusus, untuk mengurangi disrupsi pengawasan. Wajibkan pelatihan integritas berbasis nilai adat Anim Ha setiap tahun bagi seluruh ASN dan honorer.

Simpulan

Kabupaten Merauke telah menunjukkan kemajuan luar biasa: dari daerah yang kerap diasosiasikan dengan tantangan korupsi di Papua, kini menjadi yang terbaik di Provinsi Papua Selatan dengan prevalensi korupsi terdeteksi nol dan fondasi pencegahan yang solid. Namun, skor 65,16 mengingatkan bahwa perjalanan menuju Wilayah Bebas dari Korupsi dan Wilayah Birokrasi Bersih Melayani belum selesai. Risiko terbesar kini bukan lagi suap di meja pelayanan, melainkan ketimpangan akses dan celah pengawasan di wilayah terpencil.

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SPI 2024 bukan akhir, melainkan titik awal yang krusial. Jika rekomendasi di atas dijalankan dengan serius—dengan melibatkan masyarakat, adat, dan teknologi inklusif, Merauke tidak hanya akan mencapai skor >80 dalam beberapa tahun mendatang, tetapi juga menjadi model nasional bahwa pencegahan korupsi yang berbasis data, berkeadilan geografis, dan berbasis budaya lokal benar-benar mungkin terwujud, bahkan di wilayah paling menantang sekalipun.

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