

To Investigate the Relationship Between Financial Transparency and Accountability Based on Students Perceptions in Implementation of E Government: A Study on Bandung City, Indonesia

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Abstract

The implementation of digital technology has been carried out since the 1990s, which is known as e-government. E-government is expected to provide easy access to information for the public, especially in the financial sector, so that an accountable government can be created. This study aims to examine the relationship between financial transparency and accountability in the implementation of e-government. This research is a correlational study. The research was conducted on the implementation of e-government in the city of Bandung. The sample is Bandung universities students who have knowledge of the e-government and have used it. The results of the study indicate that there is a relationship between financial transparency and accountability in the implementation of e-government. The existence of financial transparency raises the perception of citizens that the government is accountable in carrying out its functions. Moreover, educating the citizens regarding the usage and benefits of e-government tends them towards it.

Keywords

E Government, Transparency, Accountable, Public Perception, Education.

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Introduction

The development of information and communication technology has changed the way the government conveys public information. Law No. 14 of 2008 states that public information is information that is generated, stored, managed, sent, and/or received by a public agency related to the organizers and administration of the state and/or the organizers and administration of other public bodies in accordance with the Law. This law and other information related to the public interest (Fox, 2021). Public bodies are executive, legislative, judicial, and other bodies whose main functions and duties are related to the administration of the state, whose funds are partly or wholly sourced from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget and/or Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget, or non-governmental organizations, as long as part or all of the funds are sourced from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget and/or Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget, public donations, and/or overseas (Fox, 2021).

Since the 1990s, public administration has utilized information and communication technology through an application called e-government. E-government is the arrangement of the management system and work processes in the government environment by optimizing the use of information and communication technology. The implementation of e-government can assist the government in providing services for its citizens related to business matters or other matters concerning the government. The implementation of e-government is expected to improve the quality of society. The implementation of e-government can speed up the process and facilitate access to public interaction, increase information transparency and increase government accountability in the context of implementing the concept of good governance (Setiawan, Harianto, & Qurniati, 2017).

The implementation of good governance means that state administration can work more effectively to realize prosperity, which means the government is able to realize state practices that are clean and free from corruption and are oriented to the public interest (Mochtar, 2015). Therefore, the concept of good governance emphasizes the importance of the concepts of financial transparency and accountability. Financial transparency means the disclosure of information related to resource management carried out by the government. With this financial transparency, it is hoped that the community will be able to supervise financial management, so that the government can be accountable (Hussain, Kot, Kamarudin, & Wong, 2020). This study aims to determine the relationship between financial transparency and accountability in the implementation of e-government based on public perception. The results of this study are expected to be used by public managers in the implementation of e-government. It was observed that educating the citizens about the usage and benefits of e-government was affecting their intention to use it in future.

Literature Review

E Government

E Government is the use of information technology in government administration to improve government performance in relation to the community, business community and other groups to achieve good governance. With the implementation of e-government, it is expected that activities in government can be carried out efficiently, provide better services to the community, provide wider access to information to the public and create a responsible government (Mal, Bakhuraybah, & Khayyat, 2020).

Public Sector Governance

Public sector governance is defined as management activities in the public sector which include policies and procedures used to direct organizational activities so as to provide guarantees for the achievement of goals in the public sector. The main objective of governance in the public sector is the achievement of effective and efficient performance in the procurement of goods and services to the community and compliance with laws and regulations. This is intended to ensure the credibility of the government by guaranteeing fair behaviour from government officials so as to reduce the risk of corruption in the public sector (Committee, 2011).

Although in practice, public sector governance is not the same for every organization, however, there are the same general principles, namely: law and ethics, transparency and accountability, stewardship and leadership (Committee, 2011). A very important principle in reducing the risk of corruption is the principle of transparency and accountability.

Financial Transparency

Transparency is defined as the government's openness in providing information about the activities that have been carried out by the government, which includes actions on a transaction, decision making and reasons for the action. In addition, the public has the right to know the performance of the government. This disclosure must also be supported by easy-to-understand public documents (Committee, 2011). E-government implementation is expected to increase financial transparency. This system is able to provide information on government regulations relating to budgeting procedures, budget preparation processes, revenue budget information, expenditure information, government performance information.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND EDUCATION ABOUT E-GOVERNMENT

Accountability is defined as the accountability of the public sector and individuals in it for decisions and actions in managing the public sector, including for being accountable for the management of public funds. standard. Thus, the principle of accountability is related to the rule of law, namely the existence of sanctions for officers who abuse their positions. An example is the use of resources deviating from the intended purpose (Committee, 2011).

The implementation of e-government is expected to increase accountability because with this system, the public can assess whether the government has performed well or not. Educating the public about the e-government system makes them use the system effectively and motivate others to use it. The public can assess whether the government has carried out its function as a body responsible for the use of public funds with adequate supervision.

Financial Accountability and Transparency Relationship

With transparency, the public can easily obtain information related to activities carried out by the government. The public can assess whether the actions and decisions taken by the government are in accordance with the rule of law or not. The principle of transparency has created an effective public oversight which will ultimately create an accountable government. The principle of accountability can be achieved if it is supported by transparency.

Research Methods

This study is a correlational study, which is to examine the relationship between financial transparency and accountability based on public perceptions in the implementation of e-government. Financial transparency indicators are the availability of information in e-government which includes regulations and procedures for budgeting, information on government revenues and expenditures, performance achievements, and follow-up actions. Meanwhile, accountability information is the public perception of the government's willingness to be responsible for what it has done, so that the public can assess whether the government has done its work in an effective and efficient manner.

The research was conducted on the implementation of e-government in the city of Bandung. The sample of the study was selected was the university students who have the knowledge of financial technology and financial accountability and also using the E-government. The universities were selected in the city of Bandung and students were only those selected who were the citizen of Bandung. Data analysis using regression analysis.

Results and Discussion

The results of the study using regression analysis are presented in table 1 for the t test and in table 2 for the F test.

Table 1.

t test

Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	8088	1,229		6,580	.000
Accountability	.669	.057	.787	11,840	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Transparency

Table 2.

F Test

ANOVA^a

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	2237,972	1	2237,972	140,177	.000b
Residual	1373.017	86	15,965		
Total	3610,989	87			

a. Dependent Variable: Transparency

b. Predictors: (Constant), Accountability

The results showed that there was a relationship between financial transparency and accountability. The implementation of e-government has made it easy for citizens to obtain information about activities carried out by the government related to financial information. The public can easily obtain information on regulations and procedures for budgeting, budgeting and the realization of budget receipts and use. With this information, the public has confidence that the government is accountable in carrying out its duties in managing resources and other assets as well as possible.

Conclusion

Due to the development of information technology, the government is required to use this technology to provide services to the community. One way to do this is to implement e-government. The implementation of e-government is expected to provide information transparency for citizens, especially with regard to information in the financial sector. With the transparency of financial information is expected to create accountability. This study aims to determine the relationship between financial transparency and accountability. The results of the study show that there is a relationship between financial transparency and accountability, The information contained in e-government provides clear information to the public, which includes information on the rules and procedures for budgeting, budgeting and the realization of government revenues and expenditures. This information can give confidence to the public that the government is accountable in carrying out its functions. In addition, educating the citizens about the e-government and it benefits motivated the public to use and benefit from it.

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