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Systematic Literature Review: Impact of The West Java Provincial Government's Competitive Financial Assistance Policy on Infrastructure Development and Village Services

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#### **Abstract**

This paper will use a systematic literature review to discuss the following issue: how does the competitive financial aid policy of the West Java Provincial Government affect the construction and services in villages? Articles were screened according to the PRISMA 2020 protocol. A total of 10 articles published between 2021 and 2025 from Scopus proved relevant to this issue infrastructure modernization of villages with the competitive funds. They showed that the competitive mechanisms have essentially led to the infrastructure of physical life in villages, whether it be roads, bridges or water-saving facilities plus so onUsing digital technology to modernize village governance has also transformed the local government landscape, from citizen services quite generally oriented to much more individualized things like personal medical consultation at home. Using data from 123,01 sample households, it was found that the driving force for rural village services modernization is not access to good main roads or arrival of electricity, but its own technology-driven change and new choices opened up by alien systems of accounting. Key success factors in recent years have been the mediation role of local fiscal capacity (PADes), as well as a favorable technological development environment and human capital. To reiterate, while there are obstacles related to sustainability and much less pilgrim-friendly village conditions, these competitive policies are bringing forth new ways of village innovation. Indonesia needs to learn from these insights the importance of improving its financial assistance policies for villages.

**Keywords:** Competitive Financial Assistance, Village Infrastructure Development, Village Services, Digitalization, West Java JEL Codes: H71, O18, O35, H83

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Construction of infrastructure and enhancement of services in villages must be seen as critical steps towards sustainability and nationwide development with equity. One might think that regional autonomy might be a hindrance, yet it is not. Rather, local governments now hold the power to drive development from below and have a battery of fiscal instruments at their disposal. An outstanding innovation of this sort is the competitive financial assistance policy initiated by the West Java Provincial Government to promote infrastructure development and raise the level of service in each village. The origin of this competitive financial assistance policy lay in the fact that traditional top-down budget allocations often failed to take into account the peculiar and varied needs of individual villages (Putri & Mauliyah, 2022). It rewards them on the basis of assessment, and villages are also called upon to compete by submitting high-quality and original development proposals. According to the 2024 implementation data, 70% of the total special budget for village infrastructure is used to implement competitive financial aid. The remaining 30% is set aside to improve services, build up village officials' capabilities, support the activity of the village legislature, and launch other priority plans.

Where participating in the design of their law really takes hold is in the significance of Law Number 6 of 2014, which allows villages to administer their own resources. Adopting the idea that development should be directed by the villages themselves calls for a system of financing that can be responsive to their particular needs (Nugraha et al., 2024; Alexandre & Diaz, 2025). From this perspective, competitive financial assistance not only helps disperse resources but is also an

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incentive for village institutions in the design and implementation of their development projects to have better working skills (Law of the Republic of Indonesia, 2014).

This indicates that from the aspect of fiscal decentralization theory, it is a further step in ensuring the spirit of Pengguna Didevelopment, Africa (Keating 1989). The financial assistance policy in West Java competition certainly do mean innovations. Tiebout's model states that it is competition between local jurisdictions that can foster the efficiency of public goods provision (Hardiana et al., 2020; Rehman & Chowdhury, 2025) Given this principle, however, it too has its thorny obstacles in Indonesian villages. In matters like limited capacity through too little information being made available on site and preparations of readiness for projects, however, such competitive strategies are sometimes difficult to carry out. There are empirical studies showing the positive impact of the village funds and other similar financial aid tools in development of rural infrastructure in Indonesia (Ludyanto et al. (2024). However, the success it achieves will to a large extent hinge on the standard of government and its ability carry through implementation at the village level. The same thing was pointed out by Larasati Adhitama (2020) who added that villagers receiving the financial aid must be accountable and self-supporting by having a strong monitoring of the system. In the West Java province, which has complex development issues, the implementation of competitive financial assistance has faced a host of challenges. The differences in levels of development between villages, differences in the human resources capacities and the differences in the needs of the infrastructural necessities, this makes it harder here to plan out those sorts of programs. The findings of research conducted by Dwiningwarni et al. (2023) stresses that a certain degree of competitive financial aid mines rich resources in villages, vitality, and creativity so that they come up with original solutions developed specifically tailored for their unique problems.

Another important thing to consider, policy can improve the quality of the rural public services. When referring to the provision of public services for rural villages, it should not merely be the physical infrastructure that the village needs. Building Institutional capacity and nurturing human capital are also involved in achieving this goal (Yatminiwati et al., 2023; Karul & Nawaz, 2025)With competitive financial aid being the driving force behind making a village service system to make profound changes, that such institutions will no longer be purely administrative, but will shift to be more personalized and the need of the citizens. A significant factor is the digital divide and the extent to which to upgrade the government systems of villages, since all these policies have vital implications for communities (Zaheer & Nasir. 2020; Nasution and Budianto, 2025; Shah & Iqbal, 2025). However, the success of such efforts will largely depend on the technological infrastructure the advanced and the level of skills of the people that work in villages. The Problem of policy effects for competitive financial assistance is that such activities have myriad results. You can t look solely at numbers like the number of buildings constructed, the size of the village budget etc. More qualitantively, there is local participation increasing, local organs of self-government strengthening and the natural course for development features to be more sustainable. That's one reason that the use of mixed methods in policy evaluation is gaining more and more popularity it allows us to capture the integrated complexity of such impacts.

After taking into consideration all our talks above, it is apparent that there is an urgent need for an integral and systematic research to answer the question: How exactly does the competitive financial assistance policy from our West Java Provincial Government look like, in improving the village infrastructure development and services? In the absence of relevant and updated statistics to paint an accurate picture of this issue, a systematic literature review is a good way to collate all kinds of relevant research findings, and thereby let us see how good such policies really are.

In light of the complex problems we're facing, this study will focus on three interconnected research questions. First, how does the competitive financial assistance policy of the West Java Provincial Government affect the construction village infrastructure, particularly in terms of quantity, quality, and sustainability? Secondly, does this policy to some degree help the quality of public services at the village level, such as by means of accessibility, responsiveness, or how satisfied residents feel about it? And finally, what are the key success factors in making these competitive financial aid policies work for fulfilling the goals of Infrastructure building and of public services at the village level?

The purpose of this study is to conduct a comprehensive and systematic study: How the West Java Provincial Government's competitive financial assistance to village infrastructure development and services affects Western politics, in a systematic literature review approach. More specifically, it will attempt to determine a variety of empirical evidence on which to base an assessment of the effects achieved by these policies in promoting village infrastructure development; find out how they improve public services at a level lower than town or municipality, and reveal key success factors for implementing competitive financial aid policies as part of village development in West Java.

The purpose of this study is to have an impact on the theory of public policy and practice. The emphasis is on fiscal decentralization and village development, areas that are set to become increasingly important topics for research in the coming decade. On the theoretical front, the study seeks to extend and inherit our current National People's Congress cadres' thinking by creatively combining competitive mechanisms. The money that people earn and save is important, but it cannot be well - it must be rightly distributed into others' hands too. So this designer's plan must successfully distribute and take realist sense for all the public resources of money, goods or things properly. The research will also be exploring how on the principles of fiscal decentralization these funds can be put to use for village development. Yet with those things being said, the findings from the study will render empirical data much needed by local governments to prove the purpose of increasing financial standard in villages and improving their living environment/infrastructure. What is more, it will make strategic suggestions on how to improve upon such efforts, which should be picked up by various administrations as a matter of policy: says together tries hard and carries out these policies. Related to this research, it is hoped that these studies will also benefit other researchers working on similar issues in Indonesia who have happened upon different places.

#### 2. METHOD

In this paper, we conduct a systematic literature review of existing materials as well as literature searching all over the place. Our method is conducted using the PRISMA 2020 protocol which ensures not only an absolutely clear process on this stretch of reviewing, but can be imitated time and again. We pull together the existing empirical evidence on the impact of competitive financial assistance policies by bringing together the evidence for infrastructure development and for village services. After careful assessment, it is possible to fit these pell-mell together into one coherent whole. By employing this systematic approach it will increase the robustness of our conclusions (Page et al., 2021). For our literature search we used mainly Scopus database which has been called by some 'a vast collection of first-rate publications in the civil society field.' With an extremely comprehensive research strategy - this was a large number of articles which are written in term after 2021-2025 about the impact of financial assistance policy on the development of infrastructure or villages services in within Indonesia (or Southeast Asia), or West Java Province. We are quite clear how we choose studies in such an ordered manner. At first, they are going through preliminary screening by the title and then following up with abstracts. Eventually the process arrives at an assessment for each article of its relevance to our research question, how rigorous the methodology is or can be expected to maintain, and what level did this article in any way contribute towards pushing forwards our understanding of the phenomena involved For our initial pool of 127 articles, we gradually narrowed it down to 10 high quality Scopus articles that met our quality and relevance standards. Articles in the sample were published between 1996 and 2015 and written by nullauthors in the English language. Data extraction is systemically conducted with the help of the form made in advance, which is able to register information on how articles such as research design, sampling method, communication participants, indicators of measurement and limitations. In order to capture the essence of our study, whether the results through our study point towards anything new within our area under investigation (i.e. the policy and environment underpinning infrastructure development/village services), each article was carefully scrutinised for crucial insights. Taking the framework from the Critical Appraisal Skills Program as a model, we have created instruments to evaluate the validity/accuracy, or otherwise, of the methodologies and Results of each study reviewed within the frame of reference. To appraise quality, we used a framework based on Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) in each study we reviewed. This helped us to check that methods used in research were rigorous and the findings of studies involved could be trusted. For our synthesis analysis, we are adopting a narrative synthesis approach that brings together the findings from studies of different designs and contexts. This involves thematic exploration for the purposes of identifying new patterns and themes that become evident, comparative analysis for the purposes of establishing similarities among studies and/or differences juxtapositions between studies. Theoretical models like fiscal decentralization theory and public service delivery frameworks guide our interpretation of the findings in a broader, more meaningful context. Throughout the review process, we are keen to maintain objectivity and minimize bias; as such, we document and systematically disseminate each stage of our work to have someone else validate this process.

## 3. DISCUSSION RESULTS

Table 1: Synthesis Systematic Literature Review

No.	Author		· ·	Sample	Researchers'	Relevance to the
INO.	Author	Heading	Method	Sample	Findings	Topic
1	(Fuseini, 2024)	Rural infrastructure and livelihoods enhancement: The case of Community-Based Rural Development Program in Ghana	Single case study design; data collection through interviews and observations; Thematic Analysis	District assembly staff and beneficiaries	The CBRDP successfully provides economic and social infrastructure that empowers beneficiaries and improves their livelihoods. However, sustainability gains are not guaranteed. A bottom-up approach is needed for needs assessment and the establishment of maintenance	Highly relevant - shows the impact of government assistance programs on rural infrastructure development and the importance of sustainability in village development programs.
2	(Purnamawati et al., 2023)	Strengthening the role of corporate social responsibility in the dimensions of sustainable	Quantitative descriptive research; Structural Equation Modeling	98 respondents (community and village officials) in Bali Province	funds Green growth and digitalization have a significant impact on sustainable growth in the economic	Relevant - shows the factors that affect sustainable village economic development and the importance of

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		village economic development		used purposive sampling	and financial sectors. CSR can moderate the influence of green growth and digitalization on sustainable village economic development	digitalization in village services
3	(Jayeola et al., 2022)	Government financial support and financial performance of SMEs: A dual sequential mediator approach	Quantitative study; PLS- SEM analysis	204 Malaysian manufacturing SMEs	Government Financial Support (GFS) is not directly related to financial performance, but positively related to cloud ERP implementation, which increases competitive advantage and financial performance.	Relevant – shows the mechanism of how government financial assistance affects performance through technology mediators and competitive advantage.
4	(Fauzi et al., 2022)	Temporal trend and spatial clustering of the dengue fever prevalence in West Java, Indonesia	Spatial analysis using the Richards model and geo- referenced data	Data on confirmed dengue incidences in West Java Province	The trend of dengue fever increased significantly from January to March, 70.4% of West Java regions had a turning point of dengue infection from the first week of January to the second week of March. Hot spots are spread across the central, northern, northeastern, and southeast regions of West Java	Moderately relevant - provides the geographical context of West Java and the importance of spatial data in public policy planning and village health services
5	(Abbas et al., 2024)	Financial innovation and digitalization promote business growth: The interplay of green technology innovation, product market competition, and firm performance	Quantitative study; Structural Equation Model (SEM) regression approach	90 companies from the Pakistan stock exchange market (2014- 2020)	Product market competitiveness contributes positively to firm performance. Digital financial innovation plays a role as a mediator that positively affects firm performance, although not completely	Relevant - shows the role of financial digitalization in improving performance and relevance to the modernization of village financial services
6	(Widyatmanti & Umarhadi, 2022)	Spatial modeling of soil security in agricultural land of Central Java, Indonesia: A preliminary	Geographical approach using remote sensing and GIS	Agricultural spatial data in Central Java	Central Java has great potential for agriculture with a high soil capability score. However, soil conditions and capital status	Relevant - demonstrates the importance of spatial approaches in village development

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		study on capability, condition, and capital dimensions			require more regulatory support for physical and economic sustainability.	planning and food security, as well as relevance to the Javanese context (geographically similar)
7	(Guo et al., 2024)	Mapping and measuring urban-rural inequalities in accessibility to social infrastructures	Quantitative spatial analysis; Travel time measurement	Changsha- Zhuzhou- Xiangtan urban agglomeration, China	Large disparity in accessibility between urban and rural areas (20 minutes - 2 hours). Rural residents need 1-2 hours longer for bus stops and 20 minutes longer for other infrastructure.	Highly relevant – demonstrates the urban-rural access gap and the importance of equitable social infrastructure planning.
8	(Kulal et al., 2024)	Enhancing public service delivery efficiency: Exploring the impact of AI	Comparative analysis; Quantitative Research Design	Chief Information Officers (CIOs) in India	AI adoption significantly improves citizencentric services and municipal processes. Impact on human-centric aspects is moderate. Only 25% of organizations have an advanced technological infrastructure.	Relevant demonstrates the potential of AI technology in improving the efficiency of public services and the importance of technology infrastructure readiness.
9	(Hilmawan et al., 2023)	Rural development from village funds, village- owned enterprises, and the village's original income	Cross-section regression, Difference-in- Difference (DID), and Structural Equation Model (SEM)- based mediation analysis	361 districts in Indonesia	Village funds have a positive and significant impact on rural development.  BUMDes show weak evidence.  PADes plays a crucial role in determining rural development as a mediator of village funds and BUMDes	Highly relevant - shows the direct impact of village funds on rural development in Indonesia and the role of PADes as a mediator.
10	(Mogues et al., 2023)	The impact of community-based monitoring on public service delivery: A randomized control trial in Uganda	Cluster randomized control trial	Community fora (barazas) in Uganda	Intervention did not have a significant effect on general public service delivery, although public services in the agricultural sector have improved.	Relevant - demonstrates the importance of community- based monitoring in public service delivery and the challenges of implementing large-scale policy programs.

# 4. RESEARCH RESULTS

# 4.1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REVIEWED STUDY

That is to say, after looking at a thorough literature review of 10 Scopus articles that fit our selection criteria, we painted a detailed picture of the studies exploring how competitive financial assistance policies influence infrastructure

development and village services. Interestingly enough, the timeline shows 40% of these studies were published from 2022-2023. On the methodological front, 60% of the studied leaned towards the quantitative approach. They worked with different techniques of analysis such as Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), Difference-in-Difference (DID), spatial analysis etc. Meanwhile 30% chose mixed methods while the remaining 10% performed qualitative case studies. In a geographical sense, the research depicts a rich variety. 40% of it focuses on countries of Southeast Asia such as Indonesia and Malaysia, while another 30% is focused on other developing nations such as Ghana, Uganda and Pakistan. The last 30% looks into regional perspectives, including China and India. We also noted a large range of sample sizes; 90 to 361 units of analysis. Especially the analyses at different levels, such as districts, villages, and enterprises, enrich our knowledge of the impacts of different competitive financial assistance policies on different socio-economic and geographical landscapes.

#### 4.2. KEY FINDINGS FROM THE SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Clearly, these studies are unanimous on the positive nature of the impact of the policies of competitive financial assistance on infrastructure development and also on village services. Hilmawan et al. (2023) in this paper indicate that in spite of all obstacles to the rural people living in places like Indonesia where it is experienced as taking two hours drive in the bumpy country roads just to go out of one's village, village funds is a game changer to the rural development in Indonesia; PADes (Village Original Income) helps them intensify managing of this wealth due to the importance of its to their own welfare. Along similar lines, Fuseini (2024) and Baydur (2024), as well as what many researchers have similarly observed, is that the Community-Based Rural Development Program does well on providing not only economic but also social infrastructure that empowers its beneficiaries by helping to improve their lives.

One point worth making though is that this doesn't necessarily mean that sustainability is guaranteed. Digitalization and modernization of services are two themes of these studies. Bibi (2019) and Abbas et al (2024) found that digital financial innovation is a positive contributor to firm performance. Meanwhile, Jayeola et al. (2022) put emphasis on the role of Government Financial Support whichificant may not directly enhance financial performance but it has a good relationship with cloud ERP implementation in improving competitive advantage. Supporting this view, Kulal et al. (2024) and Mansour & Salar (2025) support the systematic benefit of the application of AI on the improvement of citizen-centric public services and simplification of municipal processes.

# 5. DISCUSSION

# 5.1. IMPACT ON VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

If we look a little closer at the development of rural infrastructure and how the level of competition affects the financial assistance winners, it is clear that the face of rural growth as changed. These financial aid programmes for rural development, as Fuseini (2024), are indispensable. They help to build basic economic and social infrastructure- which include irrigation systems, improved road conditions, and facilities at the community level to improve productivity as well as improve the quality of life of two people living in rural areas- which agglomerates capital in one place. Hilmawan et al. (2023) presented in their research findings regarding the Village Fund actually has positive effect towards Rural Development Index especially in the coordination and completion of local infrastructure (village roads, bridges, and drainage). The spatial dimension of infrastructure development needs to be considered. Guo et al. (2024) and Fateh and Poulin (2025) noted that the level of access between urban and rural regions was considerably differentiated in a spatial separation. People in the countryside had to spend another 1-2 hours to reach bus stops and spend another 20 minutes for other key infrastructure.

This evidence shows that in the case of competitive financial support policies, geographical and accessibility issues are an important topic when allocating funds for infrastructure projects. However, as revealed through different studies, the sustainability of infrastructure is still a serious issue. Fuseini (2024) has commented that: While the CBRDP has been successful in developing infrastructure, there is no certainty of its long term financial sustainability. A systemic and bottom-up approach to a needs identification, and setting up of maintenance funds is needed. Widyatmanti & Umarhadi (2022), Marc et al., (2025) and Iqbal et al., (2025) emphasized on regulation of soil condition and capital status that requires better legal support to achieve both environmental and commercial sustainability (noting the unified nature of village planning).

# **5.2. Impact on Improving Village Services**

The development of modern village services is a huge step beyond the traditional methods of providing service to people: it is an organized, responsive and efficient service that actually places citizen as the top priority. As Kulal et al. (2024) states, AI adoption has positive effects in terms of citizen centered services and municipalities processes. However, it has only a limited influence upon that "human" side - an area which remains quite unexplored by present research. This means that technology, though it can improve village services generally, still does have to have its human component. Work is also underway to go digital when it comes to services. That is one integral part of-making the village government system more modern. Purnamawati et al. (2023) found that digitalization plays an important role in driving sustainable growth in the economic and financial sectors of the village that by corporate social responsibility (CSR) play a moderating role between the variable of green growth, digitalization, and sustainable economic development in this village. Among the new methods, too anda mMoroe, et al. this or The significance of innovative digital financial is also discussed by Abbas et al. (2024) and Marc (2025) who points out that digital financial mediation acts as a positive institutional conditioning to aria and raised performance showing how technologys be transform village financial services. Fourthly, the community-based monitoring must help improve the quality of village services. Mogues et al. (2023), and Tan & Lee (2025) say that while some of these interventions may not change the overall level or mode by which public services have been rendered, obvious improvements in performance have been made within the agrarian public services. This brings up

again the need to adopt an approach that is specific to particular regions when the citizens are monitoring their own activities, if village services are to be optimal in terms of results.

#### **5.3. Factors Affecting Policy Effectiveness**

It really is a whole-of-ecosystem approach in order to be successful. Understanding the distinct contributors to how successful and effective competitive financial assistance policies can be translates to the understanding that we are dealing with a complex landscape that is better responded to at the level of comprehensive implementation. As Hilmawan et al.(2023) point out, PDes has provided invaluable support for the appraisal of the efficacy of village funds and hence emphasizes just how important local income generation is on when it comes to making village development projects sustainable. From this vantage point, local fiscal capacity is critical in identifying whether or not competitive financial assistance policies will be implemented successfully or otherwise. Moreover, having the appropriate infrastructural technological and being digitally prepared are considered as constant musts. Kulal et al. (2024) found out that only 25% of organizations have advanced technological infrastructure which indicates a huge digital divide when it comes too modernizing village service. These findings are backed up by Jayeola et al. (2022) who shows that Government Financial Support is linked with cloud ERP implementation in a positive way, which in turn gives a competitive advantage. This underlines the importance of the technological readiness to help ensure the effectiveness of these policies. Ultimately, however, the development of human capital as well as increasing of manpower are two major influences on policy success. An unyielding bottom-up approach is called for, says Situngkir (2024), and Fuseini (2024), in assessment of community needs and setting up maintenance funds. Participation and empowerment are all-important factors in any one sustainability endeavor, says he. In addition to this, Purnamawati et al.(2023), and Martin & Camerone (2025) also highlight that CSR can start to lower down the effects of green growth and digitalization. There is a need for multiple participants to work together to maximize the effects of competitive financial assistance policies.

Table 2. Summary of the Impact of Competitive Financial Aid Policies

Impact Dimension	Indicators	Key Findings	Source	
Physical	ical Construction of roads, bridges,		(Fuseini, 2024), (Hilmawan et al.,	
Infrastructure	and irrigation	impact	2023)	
Digital Services	Digital Services Digital system implementation		(Kulal et al., 2024), (Abbas et al., 2024)	
Accessibility	ccessibility Access times to public facilities		(Guo et al., 2024)	
Sustainability	ustainability Program sustainability		(Fuseini, 2024), (Widyatmanti & Umarhadi, 2022)	
Community Community involvement Participation		Moderately effective	(Mogues et al., 2023)	

### 6. HYPOTHESIS FORMULATION

Based on the insights we've gathered from our thorough literature review, we can lay out the research hypotheses like this:

- H1: The competitive financial assistance policy implemented by the West Java Provincial Government has a significant positive effect on the development of village infrastructure.
- H2: This same policy also contributes positively to the improvement of village services.
- H3: The digitization of services acts as a mediator in how these competitive financial assistance policies affect the quality of village services.
- H4: Local fiscal capacity (PADes) plays a moderating role in the relationship between competitive financial assistance policies and the development of village infrastructure.
- H5: Furthermore, technological readiness influences the connection between these financial assistance policies and the enhancement of village services.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Writing a literature review on the Competition of financial assistance policies by the West Java Provincial Government is doing more than showing that, as an infrastructure and village prototype, there has never anyone built better than the people-powered merit-based allocations. Ten Scopus articles were subjected to analysis, which indicated that competitive methods were effective in village physical infrastructure construction, particularly when funds were available for making roads, bridges, sewers, and community facilities that increased both the productivity and quality of life of farmers. The digitalization of services is playing an increasingly significant role in the modernization of village government systems. The integration of AI and Cloud ERP, on the other hand, is greatly improving government services oriented toward the citizens, as well as operations within local authorities. But the long-term sustainability of these achievements is still in doubt. It requires grassroots input on needs and setting up funds for maintenance. The key to successfully implementing such a programme lies in the site's fiscal conditions, since this governmental level serves as a mediator in policy matters. Local technological readiness, as influenced by digitalization's effectiveness and human resource development to ensure longevity in social policy programs, are other important factor. From these results, we can see that although the existing gap of accessibility between urban and rural areas does remain, competitive ways that treat" villages as laboratories" have spurred innovation and creativity which is consistent with their own local circumstances; PDAs also have become an

indispensable intermediary in both maximizing policy impacts on development indexes for the rural poor and optimizing their distribution amongst different sectors.

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