

# Financial Management Based on SSP (Smart School Program) Mobile Application to Accelerate Education Services at Pondok Darul Arqam Muhammadiyah Patean in 2022

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## Keywords

*Financial Management, PSP Apps, Education Services*

## ABSTRACT

*The purpose of this study is to determine the effect of financial management based on the mobile PSP (Smart School Program) application on the acceleration of educational services at Pondok Darul Arqam Muhammadiyah Patean Kendal in 2022. This research uses qualitative research methods with a library research approach. This method is used to collect data and information from various relevant sources, such as scientific journals, books, research reports, and other documents. The library research approach allows researchers to collect and analyse data thoroughly by referring to existing literature reviews. In conclusion, this study provides evidence that the use of PSP Mobile application-based financial management has a positive impact on the acceleration of education services. The practical implication of this research is that decision makers and practitioners in the field of education can consider implementing PSP Mobile applications as a strategy to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Education services.*

## INTRODUCTION

Schools have the duty to manage finances based on the principles of financial management so that the money in circulation can be utilized optimally. Optimal school financial management requires schools to carry out the school financial management process as effectively as possible. School financial management is grounded in the principles outlined in the Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 48 of 2008 concerning Education Funding. These principles include justice, efficiency, transparency, and public accountability. The regulation also explains that these four principles should be applied throughout the process of school financial management, from planning, realization of receipts and expenditures of education funds, supervision and examination, and accountability. When all these management measures operate as expected, it will have a positive impact on all relevant parties in a school.

Likewise, Islamic boarding schools, which are the oldest Islamic educational institutions in Indonesia, have undergone a significant shift in orientation from traditional 'salaf' approaches to more modern formats. This transformation has had an impact on the students' ability to master Islamic knowledge from classical sources. To restore their original role, which is to produce clerical cadres, it is imperative to implement systematic and organized improvements, both internally and externally within these institutions. These improvements are essential to ensure that the output of these schools

possesses a holistic advantage.

This advantage should encompass not only excellence in the study of classical texts but also proficiency in general knowledge, management, and administration, thereby serving as a counterbalance to the progress of the times.

Considering that schools and Islamic boarding schools share the same substance and common vision-mission for each institution, it can be affirmed that financial management of Islamic boarding schools is an activity carried out to achieve the predetermined goals of the institution. This is accomplished through the development and effective management of resources and sources of funds as well as the inherent potentials within the Islamic boarding school system effectively and efficiently. The financial management of Islamic boarding schools represents a crucial aspect of educational institution management that will help determine the seamless operation of Islamic boarding school activities. Much like the management of educational institution in general, financial management activities within Islamic boarding schools should follow a structured process, including planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, and supervising or controlling.

It is frequently observed that financial challenges in Islamic boarding schools consistently pose obstacles in carrying out pesantren activities. These challenges encompass various aspects, including budgeting, accounting, administrative arrangement, resource allocation and developmental requirements of pesantren. Regrettably, many pesantren, despite possessing both human and natural resources, suffer from disorganization. Additionally, errors in financial management often result in a sluggish progression of the Islamic boarding school's educational processes.

Financial management in general is being carried out effectively in all schools; however, the extent of implementation varies from one school to another. The diversity is influenced by factors such as the school's size, location, and reputation. In typical schools located in communities with relatively lower financial capacity, financial management remains relatively simple. Meanwhile, in ordinary schools whose community capacity is larger, financial management tends to be more complex. This complexity arises because these schools must accommodate various activities increasingly demanded by the community (Hidayat, 2022).

Financial management is one of the fundamental aspects of school administration that significantly influences the execution of educational activities within schools. According to the Ministry of National Education (2003), financial management encompasses a range of financial management and administrative activities which includes recording, planning, implementation, accountability and reporting. Thus, school financial management can be interpreted as a series of activities aimed at efficiently managing school finances ranging from planning, bookkeeping, spending, supervising and accountability of school finances. This is in line with the results of Ezah and Ogara's (2020) research entitled "Impact of Financial Management on Effective School Administration in Enugu Education Zone " which underscores that poor financial management is a primary obstacle to effective school management. The role of the principal in financial management positively influences school coordination.

Financial management represents a pivotal component within education management, playing a vital role in the growth and advancement of an educational institution. Education, as a long-term investment, is geared towards the ultimate objective of producing reliable and competitive human resources both at the local and global levels. Education management holds a strategic position, as it forms the core of educational services. Financial management organizes the learning process within schools to achieve both school goals and optimal educational goals. Its focus is on improving the quality of educational services (Chidinmachinenye & Anachuna, 2019).

Pondok Darul Arqam Muhammadiyah Patean is one of the Islamic boarding schools in Patean District, Kendal Regency, Central Java. This institution has used the PSP (Smart School Program) Mobile application to maximize the financial management of Islamic boarding schools. Initial

observations by researchers revealed that about 40% of all guardians within the boarding school had not completed the administrative tasks until the specified time. This issue often arose due to the lack of meeting between the guardians and the Islamic boarding school, resulting in occasional negligence and forgetting to pay the required fees on time. Therefore, Pondok Darul Arqam Muhammadiyah Patean has been continually improving its operations, one of which is by utilizing information technology to create a PSP (Smart School Program) Mobile application, making it easier for student guardians to carry out administration at the boarding school. This is in line with Azyumardi Azra in the I.G.-Worlu, M. O. Chiekezie, H. E. introduction to the book 'Pesantren Rooms' by Nurcholis Madjid (1997) which explains that the modernization of the *pesantren* education system includes four things: the renewal of the educational content which focus on general and vocational subjects, updates in methodology, institutional reforms, and functional enhancement.

As an implementation of the existing education management paradigm in Indonesia, Total Quality Management (TQM), financial and financing issues are primarily regulated by the educational institutions themselves, including Islamic boarding schools. Although, historically, Islamic boarding school have operated as independent institution in terms of management, it would be beneficial for them to adopt a management arrangement that serve the greater good for the community. This aligns with the core principle of *Pesantren*, (al-Muhafadhoh'alaal-Qodimas-Sholih-waal- Akhdu bi al-Jadid al-Ashlah) which preserves good old traditions while adopting new things that bring more benefit (*mashlahat*). Therefore, according to researchers, the use of information technology in the form of PSP (Smart School Program) Mobile applications used by Pondok Darul Arqam Muhammadiyah Patean in maximizing financial management of Islamic boarding schools is the right choice. (Bua & Adzongo, 2014)

The utilization of information technology in the field of education holds significant importance for enhancing the quality of education. This significance arises from the diverse geographical conditions prevalent in Indonesia as a whole. Supporting this viewpoint, a study entitled "The Effect of Information Technology, Competence, and Commitment to Service Quality and Implication on Customer Satisfaction" reveals that information technology has a significant influence on service quality, where the partial path coefficient value of the information technology variables on service quality is 0.456. Given the background outlined above, the research focuses on the impact of PSP (Smart School Program) Mobile on the Acceleration of Education Services. Consequently, the research is titled "The Effect of PSP (Smart School Program) Mobile-Based Financial Management on the Acceleration of Education Services at Pondok Darul Arqam Muhammadiyah Patean Kendal in 2022". The results of this study are expected to be valuable recommendations for education personnel, school principals, boarding school leaders and fellow researchers to optimize the financial management within their respective Islamic boarding schools. (Husaini, 2017) (Nugraha et al., 2022)

The purpose of this study is to determine the effect of financial management based on the mobile PSP (Smart School Program) application on the acceleration of educational services at Pondok Darul Arqam Muhammadiyah Patean Kendal in 2022.

## METHODS

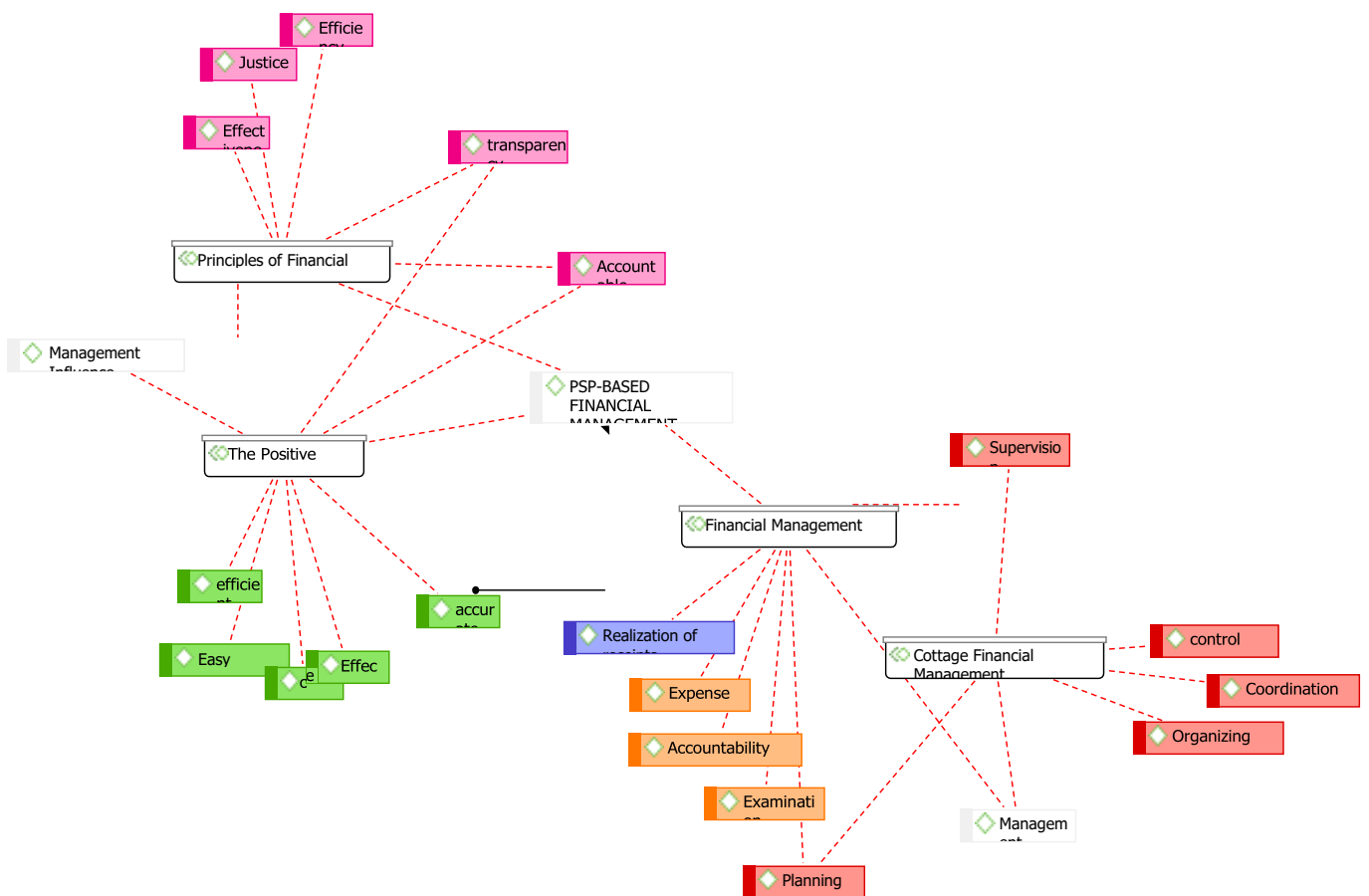
This study aims to analyze the effect of financial management based on the PSP (Smart School Program) Mobile application on the acceleration of educational services. This research uses qualitative research methods with a library research approach to collect data and information from various relevant sources, including scientific journals, books, research reports, and other documents. The library research approach enables comprehensive data collection and analysis through existing literature reviews.

Research steps:

1. Identify Research Objectives:

- a. Explain the purpose of the research clearly and in detail.

- b. Identify the variables to be studied, namely PSP Mobile application-based financial management and acceleration of education services.
2. Determination of Research Scope:
  - a. Clarify the scope of research, such as the location of the study and the target population.
  - b. Explain why the use of PSP Mobile application was chosen as the object of research.
3. Data Collection:
  - a. Search and access relevant literature sources such as scientific journals, books, research reports, and related documents.
  - b. Identify and collect information related to PSP Mobile application-based financial management and acceleration of education services.
4. Selection and Assessment of Information Sources:
  - a. Selecting literature sources in accordance with the research topic.
  - b. Assess the quality and reliability of the sources of information found.
5. Data Analysis:
  - a. Conduct analysis of data found from literature sources.
  - b. Identify important findings related to the effect of PSP Mobile application-based financial management on the acceleration of education services.
6. Report Preparation:
  - a. Prepare a research report that includes a summary of the research findings.
  - b. Present research findings systematically and logically.



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Analysis of Research Findings:

In this study, we identified the impact of PSP Mobile application-based financial management on the acceleration of education services. This section presents and analyzes the key findings

### 2. The Effect of PSP Mobile Application-Based Financial Management on the Acceleration of Education Services:

The analysis of research findings shows that the implementation of PSP Mobile application-based financial management has a positive influence on the acceleration of education services. The app allows schools and stake to manage and monitor expenses and income efficiently and transparently. As a result, financial administration processes become easier, faster, and more accurate, ultimately enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of educational services.

### 3. Optimization of PSP Mobile Application Use in Financial Management:

This discussion emphasizes the importance of optimizing the use of PSP Mobile application in financial management. The study revealed that schools actively use this application throughout their financial processes tend to experience a significant increase in the acceleration of education services. In addition, effective training and mentoring to school staff in the use of the application also contributes to the improvement of service quality.

### 4. Challenges and Constraints of PSP Mobile Application Implementation:

In this section, we discuss the challenges and constraints encountered during the implementation of PSP Mobile application in financial management. Identified challenges include resistance to change from the parties involved, limited access to technology, and a shortage of technical expertise among school staff. To overcome these challenges, strategic measures such as additional training, effective socialization, and adequate technical support need to be put in place to ensure successful implementation.

### 5. Principles of School Financial Management

Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 20 of 2003 article 48 states that the management of education funds is based on the principles of justice, efficiency, transparency, and public accountability. These principles align with the ongoing reform within the Ministry of Education and Culture. The implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Directorate General of Secondary Education (Renstra Ditjen Dikmen) places a strong emphasis on bureaucratic reform of the Ministry of Education and Culture. This reform is guided by the 2010-2014 strategic plan and the 5K mission of the Ministry of Education and Culture, namely availability, affordability, quality, equality, and certainty. These principles serve as the basis for planning the implementation of bureaucratic reform programs. In addition, the bureaucratic reform initiatives undertaken by the Directorate General of Secondary Education is also based on the principles of efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and transparency. Given this context, this study aims to explore the principles of fairness and efficiency in financial management as explained below: (Fair, 2016)

#### 1) Justice

Republic of Indonesia Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, Article 5 Paragraph 1, mandates that every citizen has the same right to get quality education. The principle of fairness in school financial management is carried out by providing the widest possible opportunity to candidates and / or students to access educational services at school. These opportunities encompass various aspects, including (1) special services for students with special needs and / or who have special intelligence and talent potential, (2) accessibility to education for prospective students, and / or students, (3) opportunities to continue education (Article 5 of Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System).



To uphold the principle of justice and promote educational equality, schools are also required to manage finances derived from School Operational Assistance (BOS) funds. MA School Operational Assistance is a government program designed to support the implementation of affordable and high-quality secondary education programs (BOS MA Technical Guidelines 2014). Some of the primary objectives of the BOS MA program include aligning government efforts to assist economically disadvantaged high school students. This is achieved through waiving and/or assisting school fee bills for impoverished students and providing equal opportunities for them to get affordable and quality education services. Furthermore, the Social Friendly Program is mandated to collaborate with schools that serve students who come from economically disadvantaged families. This program actively identifies and recruits underprivileged students who possess both the interest and potential to attend education at the respective institution. Furthermore, schools are obligated to implement cross-subsidy mechanisms and/or actively seek additional funding from local governments, communities, and other non-binding and voluntary sources to support students from impoverished backgrounds. (Mubin, 2018)

In addition to the BOS fund, schools are also required to manage the Poor Student Assistance fund. Poor Student Assistance is a constitutional mandate implemented through a policy of subsidizing educational costs for poor students. The objectives include providing opportunities for junior high school graduates and equivalent to continue their education, preventing poor students from dropping out of school, and providing greater opportunities for poor students to continue attending school (2014 High School Poor Student Assistance Implementation Guidelines).

Based on this theory, researchers concluded that the principle of fairness in school financial management serves as the cornerstone of school financial management in planning income, financial allocation, and providing optimal services to students, teachers, employees as a form of educational equity. Furthermore, the principle of efficiency in relation to budget implementation in school financial management is also explained.

## 2) Efficiency

Efficiency in the management of educational funds is achieved by optimizing access, quality, relevance, and competitiveness of education services (Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 48 of 2008). Efficiency in the world of education is closely tied to the utilization of limited educational resources to achieve the highest possible optimization. An efficient operational process is defined as one in which a product or desired outcome can be attained with the minimal use of resources and funds, essentially ensuring prudent spending. (Andiawati, 2017; Komariah, 2018)

In school financial management, the principle of efficiency can be implemented through both internal and external efficiency. Internal efficiency focuses on achieving the desired output at minimal cost. It involves comparing the cost of educational inputs to their effectiveness in enhancing learning outcomes. Additionally, internal efficiency also emphasizes the provision of stimuli that can motivate the behavior of students, teachers, and External efficiency, on the other hand, is often associated with the cost-benefit analysis method. This method calculates the ratio between financial benefits as a result of education and all costs incurred for education. Beyond cost-benefit analysis, external efficiency is also associated to the analysis of the return on education investment from the formation of abilities, attitudes, and skills. This goal of external efficiency is to determine policies in allocating education costs, as well as social recognition of graduates and educational outcomes. (Main & Setiyani, 2014; Masruri et al., 2021)

Based on this theory, researchers concluded that the principle of efficiency in school financial management involves empowering school financial resources to optimize access, quality,

relevance, and competitiveness of educational services. Furthermore, it is also explained about the stages of school financial management based on these principles.

### 3) Effective

Effectiveness pertains to the alignment between individuals performing tasks and the intended goals. It also involves how effectively an organization allocates and utilizes resources to achieve its operational objectives. From the above understanding, effectiveness is intertwined with the successful execution of fundamental tasks, goals attainment, timeliness, and active involvement of its members. In the context of an activity, it is considered effective when the objectives are optimally achieved with minimal resource utilization. Efficiency refers to the measure of an organization's utilization of scarce resources. Dharma also explained that efficiency is also a comparison between inputs and outputs, energy and results, expenditures and inputs, costs, and the pleasure generated (Alkurnia & Anggraini, 2017) (Kartikawati, 2016).

### 4) Transparency

According to school management principles, transparency is a fundamental aspect. It involves making information easily accessible to all members, providing continuous reports, enabling stakeholders to understand the decision-making and policy formulation processes within the school. Transparent education management plays a pivotal role in fostering trust and confidence among stakeholders, enhancing the school's reputation as a symbol of good and clean governance. Transparency is a principle that guarantees access or freedom for everyone to obtain information about the administration of government, namely information about policies, the process of making and implementing them and the results achieved. According to Krina, transparency comprises two core components: public communication by the government and the public's right to access information. It is built on the principle of freedom of information. Information related to the public interest, in this case, includes the community and school residents, should be easily obtainable. Proper fund management must be carried out with openness so that school residents and the community can provide suggestions, criticisms, and supervise and control the implementation of the program. Krina (2003: 15) explained that the principle of transparency can be evaluated through a number of indicators such as: (1) Mechanisms ensuring an open and standardized system for all public service processes; (2) Mechanisms facilitating public questions about various public policies, services, and processes within the public sector; (3) Mechanisms supporting the reporting and dissemination of information and irregularities in the actions of public officials in serving activities. (Fatra & Hope, 2017) (Karyatun, 2018)

### 5) Accountable

According to government regulation number 48 of 2008 article 59, the principle of accountability is enacted by ensuring that education providers or units are accountable for their activities to education stakeholders in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. According to Mardiasmo (2009: 20) accountability is the responsibility for managing activities in an economical and efficient manner towards the entity assigning the responsibility. According to Fattah (2013: 93), accountable education can be measured through the following criteria: 1) Clearly defined objectives that can be translated into specific goals 2) Survivable activities that consistently lead to the achievement of goals 3) Effective results due to the achievement of set objectives 4) Efficient processes for achieving results, considering available sources 5) Running feedback mechanisms for continuous improvement. The demand for school accountability as a public sector emphasizes not only vertical accountability, but also horizontal accountability. Public sector organizations must meet four dimensions of accountability, namely: a) Accountability for probity and legality b) Process accountability c) Program accountability d) Policy accountability.

## CONCLUSION

In this study, the author has investigated the effect of PSP Mobile application-based financial management on the acceleration of education services. Based on the analysis of research findings, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The use of PSP Mobile application in financial management demonstrates a positive impact on accelerating education services. This application allows schools and relevant stakeholders to manage finances efficiently and transparently, improve administrative processes, and speed up decision-making regarding the allocation of education funds.
2. Optimization of the use of PSP Mobile application throughout the entire financial management process is very important. Schools that actively and comprehensively integrate this application into their financial management system are likely to experience a significant increase in the acceleration of education services. Providing proper training and mentoring to school staff in the use of the application also contributes to the improvement of service quality.
3. However, the implementation of the PSP Mobile application is also faced with challenges and obstacles. Issues such as resistance to change, limited access to technology, and a shortage of technical expertise among school staff are some of the obstacles that must be overcome. Additional training, effective socialization, and adequate technical support are required to overcome these obstacles.

In conclusion, this study provides compelling evidence that the use of PSP Mobile application-based financial management has a positive impact on the acceleration of education services. The practical implication of this research suggests that decision makers and practitioners in the field of education should consider implementing PSP Mobile applications as a viable strategy to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of educational services. In addition, this study also makes theoretical contributions in the literature on financial management within the education sector.

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