

Transformation of Cooperative Financial Governance Through Implementation of Cooperative Accounting Information System (SIKOP) Based on SAK EP in Blitar Regency

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Received : 30 May - 2025

Accepted : 04 July - 2025

Published online : 09 July - 2025

Abstract

Cooperatives are one of the important pillars in the economic development of the community, especially in Blitar Regency. However, many cooperatives still face serious challenges in accountable and transparent financial governance. The low understanding of Private Entity Financial Accounting Standards (SAK EP) and the limited use of information technology are the main obstacles in preparing reliable financial reports. This community service activity aims to transform cooperative financial governance through the development and implementation of the Cooperative Accounting Information System (SIKOP) based on SAK EP. The approach used is Participatory Action Research (PAR), involving 30 production cooperatives in Blitar Regency as partners. The activities were carried out through the stages of identifying needs, developing systems, intensive training, and assisting in implementation and evaluation. The results of the activities showed a significant increase in the understanding and skills of cooperative administrators in preparing financial reports according to standards, as well as increasing the efficiency and accuracy of recording financial transactions. With the implementation of SIKOP, partner cooperatives also showed increased transparency and accountability which had an impact on member trust and potential access to funding. This program shows that digitizing SAK EP-based financial reports through SIKOP can be an effective solution in building professional, accountable, and sustainable cooperative governance.

Keywords: Cooperatives, Financial Governance, SAK EP, SIKOP, Transparency, Accountability.

1. Introduction

Cooperatives have a strategic role in the national economy as a pillar of strengthening the people's economy, especially in supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in rural areas (Puspitaningtyas, 2017). In Blitar Regency, cooperatives are one of the important instruments in creating local community welfare. However, the optimization of the role of cooperatives is still hampered by weak transparent and accountable financial governance (Daud et al., 2023; Susanti et al., 2023).

The main challenges faced by cooperatives include the low capacity of human resources (HR) managers in understanding and implementing accounting principles that comply with standards, especially the Private Entity Financial Accounting Standards (SAK EP) which will be effectively enforced in 2025 (Nastiti & Nevias, 2023). Based on the report of the Blitar Regency Cooperative and MSME Service, more than 60% of active cooperatives have difficulty in preparing financial reports according to financial accounting standards. Most cooperative



administrators do not have an accounting background and still use a manual system for financial recording.

The absence of a digital recording system means that the financial reports produced cannot be used optimally for decision making (Rosnidah et al., 2022), either by cooperative management or by external parties such as creditors and members (Wardani et al., 2022; Kasmir, 2019). In fact, accountable financial reports are an important prerequisite in building public trust and opening access to external funding (Mardiasmo, 2021).

In response to these conditions, a transformation of cooperative financial governance is needed through the development and application of appropriate information technology. The Cooperative Accounting Information System (SIKOP) based on SAK EP is designed to facilitate the preparation of financial reports that meet standards and improve operational efficiency (Mowen & Hansen, 2017; Romney & Steinbart, 2015). This system not only facilitates digital financial recording and reporting, but also allows cooperatives to conduct independent financial performance analysis.

This community service activity aims to overcome these problems through a Participatory Action Research (PAR). This method allows active involvement of cooperative managers in training, simulations, and evaluation of system implementation. With this approach, transformation occurs not only technically, but also culturally in building awareness of the importance of transparency and accountability in cooperative financial management (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011; Stringer, 2007).

This mentoring program focuses on 30 production cooperatives in Blitar Regency, with the hope of creating a best practice model of technology-based cooperative financial governance. Through the implementation of SIKOP, cooperatives are expected to not only be able to fulfill financial reporting obligations in accordance with SAK EP, but also have a professional, sustainable financial system that supports strategic decision making. Given this background, this service is expected to be a real contribution in accelerating the digital transformation of cooperatives and strengthening the role of cooperatives as modern, transparent, and resilient people's economic institutions.

2. Methods

Activity mentoring strengthening governance organization business and reporting finance towards business process sustainable cooperatives for cooperatives in the district Blitar depicted in scenario activity as following.

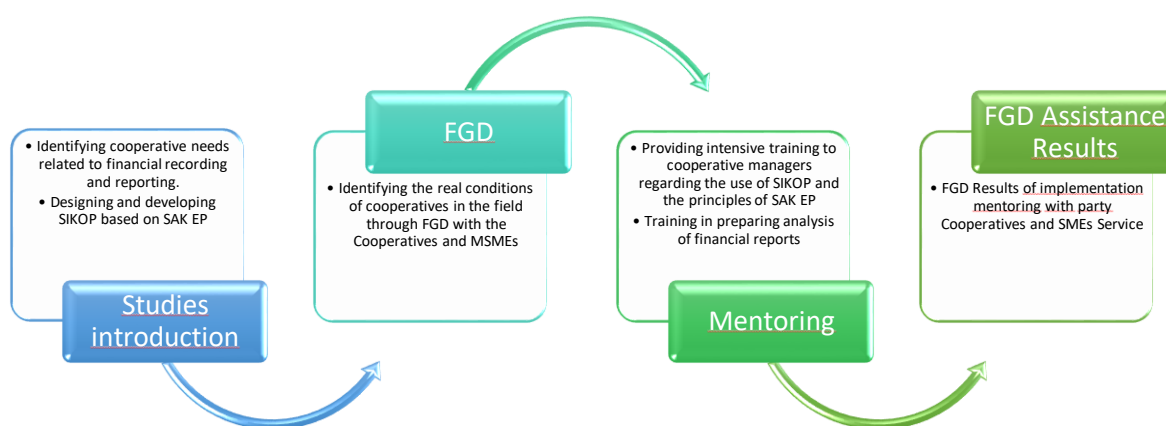


Figure 1. Design Activity Mentoring

This program was implemented through a number of stages:

1. Identification Needs : Identify need cooperative related recording and reporting finance.
2. Development System : Designing and developing SIKOP based on SAK EP with Features main like module recording transaction, compilation report finance, and reporting automatic.
3. Training and Mentoring : Providing training intensive to manager cooperative about use of SIKOP and the principles of SAK EP.
4. Implementation and Evaluation : Accompanying cooperative in implement system this and do evaluation to the result

The introductory stage began with a literature review, followed by an in-depth analysis using secondary data. This stage aimed to identify information needs that would later serve as the foundation for designing training and mentoring activities. Subsequently, an internal Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted to assess the real conditions of cooperatives in the field. This FGD was carried out in collaboration with the Department of Cooperatives and MSMEs.

3. Results and Discussion

The community service program implemented aims to transform the financial governance of cooperatives through the implementation of the Cooperative Accounting Information System (SIKOP) based on the Private Entity Financial Accounting Standards (SAK EP). The implementation of activities is carried out through four main stages: preliminary study, Focus Group Discussion (FGD), intensive mentoring, and FGD mentoring results. All of these activities are carried out together with cooperative partners in Blitar Regency, especially production cooperatives that have been selected by the Blitar Regency Cooperative and MSME Office. The following presents the results and discussion of mentoring activities according to these stages.

3.1. Preliminary Study

The preliminary study aims to identify the needs of cooperatives related to financial recording and reporting. At this stage, an initial survey was conducted on 30 partner cooperatives to determine the existing condition of the accounting system they use. The survey results show that:

1. As many as 70% of cooperatives still use a manual ledger-based recording system.
2. 20% of cooperatives use non-accounting software (such as Excel) simply.
3. Only 10% of cooperatives have ever known or used a digital-based accounting system, but it has not been integrated with the SAK EP standard.

This finding confirms that most partner cooperatives are not ready to face the implementation of SAK EP without external intervention. Therefore, the PKM team developed an initial prototype of the SIKOP application that has the function of recording transactions, classifying accounts, and preparing financial reports in accordance with the principles of SAK EP. The system development was carried out by considering the specific needs of cooperatives, such as the existence of reports on the remaining operating results (SHU), member reports, and savings and loan transactions. SIKOP was built using a desktop-based platform and can be used offline to suit the conditions of cooperatives that have limited network infrastructure.

3.2. Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

The FGD was conducted by involving cooperative administrators and the Cooperative and MSME Office of Blitar Regency. The purpose of the FGD was to confirm the results of the

preliminary study and explore real conditions in the field. In this discussion, several important things were found:

1. Cooperatives need a system that is not only easy to use but also complies with the latest regulations.
2. Many cooperative administrators have difficulty understanding accounting terms and presenting financial reports.
3. It requires tiered training that not only delivers theory, but also direct practice.

Based on input from the FGD, revisions were made to the initial SIKOP prototype. Adjustments include aspects of a simplified user interface, a navigation menu in non-technical Indonesian, and the presence of an automatic validation feature so that input errors can be minimized.

3.3. Intensive Mentoring

The mentoring stage is the core of the community service activities. The activities are carried out in several training sessions and technical guidance directly to the cooperative administrators. The results of this mentoring can be categorized into several aspects:

1. Improving the Understanding of Cooperative Management

The training is conducted in three main sessions:

A. Session 1: Introduction to SAK EP and the Urgency of its Implementation

The first session aims to provide a basic understanding of the Private Entity Financial Accounting Standards (SAK EP) which will be effectively implemented in 2025, replacing SAK ETAP. The materials presented include:

- 1) Background and objectives of implementing SAK EP by IAI
- 2) The fundamental differences between SAK EP and previous standards (SAK EMKM/ETAP)
- 3) The structure of financial reports according to SAK EP (Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss, Changes in Equity, Cash Flow, and Notes to the Financial Statements)
- 4) The urgency of implementing this standard for cooperatives to be administratively credible and have greater access to financing and external partners.

Method: Interactive presentations and simple case studies.

Results: Participants understand the importance of accountability and standards in cooperative financial reporting. There is an increased awareness of the need for governance reform based on accounting standards.

B. Session 2: Training on Using the SIKOP Application

This session focuses on technical training related to the operation of the SIKOP application developed by the team. The main features that participants learn include:

- 1) Filling out cooperative profiles and managing member data input (savings, loans, cash, operational expenses)
- 2) Grouping of accounts according to SAK EP classification
- 3) Automation of financial reports (Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss, Cash Flow, SHU)

Method: Live simulation in computer lab and step- by -step tutorial.

Results: The majority of participants were able to operate the application independently. Participants were also given access to a user guide and video tutorials to use after the training.

C. Session 3: Preparation and Interpretation of Financial Statements

The final session aims to improve participants' skills in reading, compiling, and analyzing cooperative financial reports that have been produced from the SIKOP application. The material includes:

- 1) Reading the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Report of a Cooperative

- 2) Interpretation of business results: identifying cost structures and efficiency potential
- 3) Simple financial ratio analysis (liquidity, solvency, profitability)
- 4) Simulation of presentation of reports in official cooperative forums such as the Annual Members Meeting (RAT)

Methods: Case study of partner cooperatives and group discussions.

Results: Cooperative managers began to use financial reports as a basis for managerial decision making. They also understood the distribution of SHU and the importance of financial ratios to assess cooperative performance.

2. Implementation of SIKOP Application

As many as 28 out of 30 cooperatives successfully implemented the SIKOP application in full. They were able to:

- 1) Inputting daily financial data
- 2) Generate balance sheet reports, profit and loss reports, cash flow reports, and SHU reports
- 3) Correcting data errors through the audit trail feature

Some cooperatives are also able to adjust financial reports according to their internal needs and use them in annual member meetings. This shows that SIKOP has met the basic needs of cooperative reporting and encouraged internal transparency.

3. Financial Report Analysis

As part of the advanced training, the mentoring team teaches how to read and analyze financial reports. Focus is given on:

- 1) Cooperative liquidity ratio
- 2) Analysis of remaining business results (SHU) and its distribution
- 3) Cash flow health

Some cooperatives realize that despite recording profits, they have negative cash flow due to uncollected savings and loan receivables. This insight opens up space for cooperatives to develop healthier financial strategies, such as increasing collection efficiency or redesigning loan schemes.

4. FGD Assistance Results

The FGD resulting from the mentoring was carried out as a means of reflection and joint evaluation. This FGD presented representatives of cooperatives, related agencies, and the community service team. Some important notes from this FGD are:

- A. The majority of cooperatives admitted that the training and applications provided were very helpful in increasing member confidence.
- B. The Cooperatives Service responded positively and expressed its commitment to support the expansion of SIKOP implementation to other cooperatives outside of program partners.
- C. The cooperative said that with this application they are more confident in facing annual inspections by cooperative supervisors.

The team also received various suggestions for further development, such as:

- A. Addition of fixed asset management module
- B. Cooperative taxation module
- C. Cloud integration system for cooperatives with branches

The assistance activities for the transformation of cooperative financial governance through the implementation of SIKOP based on SAK EP have had a significant impact on increasing the capacity of cooperative managers in transparent, accountable, and standardized financial management. Through the stages of preliminary studies, FGDs, training, and

evaluations, it was found that the needs of cooperatives for a reliable reporting system can be met by the SIKOP system which is specifically designed according to the characteristics of cooperatives.

4. Conclusion

The implementation of Cooperative Accounting Information System (SIKOP) was not only successful in technical aspects (application usage), but also in cultural aspects, namely increasing awareness of the importance of financial transparency and accountability. This success is reflected in the use of financial reports in formal cooperative forums and the increasing financial analysis capabilities of administrators.

Future recommendations are the need for program sustainability through further training, the formation of a SIKOP user community, and collaboration with the Cooperatives Office for regional system development. In addition, the potential for developing the system into a cloud-based and mobile platform is important to answer the dynamics of cooperative digitalization in the future. Overall, the results of this assistance show that a collaborative and participatory approach, accompanied by strengthening technology, is able to accelerate the transformation of cooperatives towards professional and sustainable governance.

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