

## Analysis of the Impact of the Family Hope Program (PKH) Policy in the Era of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Silangkitang District Labuhan Batu Regency, North Sumatra Province

Sri Endang Rahayu<sup>1\*</sup>, Ade Fitriani Harahap<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Fakultas Ekonomi dan Bisnis Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara  
Jl. Kapten Mukhtar Basri No. 3 Medan, Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

\***email:** sriendang@umsu.ac.id

### ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the impact of the Family Hope Program policy in the era of the covid-19 pandemic in Ulumahuam Selatan Village, Silangkitang District, Labuhanbatu Regency, North Sumatra Province. The basic method used in this research is to use descriptive analysis approach. The research location was conducted in Ulumahuam Village, Silangkitang District, South Labuhanbatu Regency. The total population in the study amounted to 359 residents. This study determined 50 respondents using purposive sampling. The data analysis technique used is descriptive analysis. The results of the study show that the quality of life of households receiving PKH policies during the COVID-19 pandemic, their quality of life decreased compared to before the pandemic. This is because the people receiving PKH are increasingly difficult, this is shown from the respondents' answers to the average monthly data income of respondents. answered Rp. 500,000 to Rp. 1,000,000 million because during the covid 19 pandemic their business was quiet and some of their business was closed. There are differences between the PKH policies before the Pandemic and the PKH policies during the Pandemic, it can be seen that the amount of funds received before the pandemic for pregnant women was IDR 2,400,000 while during the pandemic it changed to IDR 3,000,000. Likewise, funds for early childhood, elementary, junior high, high school, severe disabilities and the elderly. Not only that, assistance in the form of basic necessities has also changed or the government has increased the amount of basic food assistance which was previously Rp. 150,000/Family, to Rp.200,000/Family. With the PKH policy, it is hoped that the poor will decrease, but in fact the poor are increasing in Labuhan Batu Selatan Regency.

**Keywords :** Family Hope Program Policy, Covid-19 Pandemic



## INTRODUCTION

In general, economic development is a process of change that is planned to improve aspects of people's lives. While economic development is broadly defined as development that occurs through a multidimensional process in which there are various kinds of variables from major changes that occur in a social structure, attitudes of society, various kinds of national institutions and also the acceleration of economic growth, as well as the reduction and inequality, and finally the elimination of absolute poverty” (Todaro, 2000). “The development process that occurs in society has several objectives, namely increasing the availability and expanding the distribution of various necessities of life, increasing living standards, and expanding economic and social choices for each individual and the nation as a whole” (Todaro M. P., 2006).

“Economic development can also be referred to as state development in terms of its space or territory and in this context the most appropriate term to use is regional development. Therefore, economic development contains a regional development strategy which is intended as a step to complement the macro and sectoral strategies of national development. The notion of development in this case is widely used by policy makers as an effort to build the country's economic stability” (Jhingan, 2014).

From the above definition, one of the goals of economic development is to eradicate poverty. Where Indonesia has a large population, poverty is one of the most difficult problems to solve.

Indonesia as one of the countries with the fourth largest population in the world, which has a population of around 260 million people. Indonesia currently consists of 17,508 islands, about 6,000 of which are inhabited, divided into 34 provinces, five of which have different statuses. Provinces are divided into 403 Cities and 98 Cities. There are about 300 different indigenous ethnic groups in Indonesia, and 742 different languages and dialects (BPS, 2015).

The government as the holder of the highest power has the right to regulate and manage its own household. As stated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia which mandates that the state is obliged to protect the entire Indonesian nation and promote social welfare in the context of realizing social justice for all Indonesian people.

The laws made by the government are very good and are indeed needed by the Indonesian people, but in reality what is happening in the field at this time is not in accordance with what is stated in the Act. There are so many Indonesians today who still live in poor and even very poor conditions, which makes them unable to meet their daily needs.

“Basically, poverty is a classic problem that has existed since mankind existed. Poverty is a complex problem, it will continue to be an actual problem from time to time. Although until now there has not been found a formula or formulation for handling poverty that is considered the most effective, significant and relevant” (Endang Rahayu & et al, 2020).

According to (Mubyarto, 2010), poverty can be defined as a low standard of living, namely the existence of a level of material deficiency in a number or group of people compared to the general standard of living prevailing in the community concerned. Social scientists agree that the main cause of poverty is the economic system prevailing in the society concerned. However, many experts also believe that poverty is not a symptom that manifests solely because of the economic system. Poverty is a manifestation of the results of interactions that involve almost all aspects of human life.

From BPS data, Indonesia's population from 2018-2020 has increased. In 2018 there were 264,161 million people, an increase in 2019 to 266,911 people and in 2020 an increase of

269,603 people, as well as the population below the poverty line in 2018 of 12.63% of the total population, which decreased in 2019 to 11,93% while in 2020 the number of people living below the poverty line has increased to 12.41% of the total population of Indonesia. The increase in the percentage of poor people in 2020 was due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which caused a lot of reduction in the workforce and many businesses closed.

Poverty is generally measured by the level of income, and can basically be divided into absolute poverty and relative poverty. A person is said to be absolutely poor, if his income level is below the poverty line, or his income is not sufficient to meet the minimum living needs.

These minimum living needs are measured by, among other things, the need for food, clothing, health, housing, and education, which are needed to be able to live and work. Meanwhile, relative poverty is a comparison between community groups with income levels already above the poverty line. So, actually not including poor, but still poorer than other community groups.

**Table 1.** Number of Poor Population of North Sumatra Province

District/City	Number of Poor Population of North Sumatra Propince		
	2018	2019	2020
Nias	23.263	22.769	23.791
Mandailing Natal	42.105	40.402	41.061
Tapanuli Selatan	25.519	24.104	23.880
Tapanuli Tengah	47.900	46.382	46.631
Tapanuli Utara	29.036	28.429	28.278
Toba Samosir	15.761	15.710	16.001
Labuhan Batu	41.207	41.059	41.709
Asahan	73.669	70.120	65.973
Simalungun	79.994	76.091	73.426
Dairi	23.114	21.807	22.858
Karo	34.958	33.716	36.181
Deli Serdang	87.334	83.854	85.194
Langkat	104.888	102.609	101.365
Nias Selatan	52.347	52.181	53.552
Humbang	16.802	16.492	17.801
Pakpak Bharat	4.596	4.461	4.541
Samosir	16.738	15.752	15.748
Serdang Bedagai	50.382	48.555	49.127
Batu Bara	51.423	50.137	49.479
Padang Lawas	26.447	25.706	26.453
Padang Lawas	22.690	22.813	23.540
Labuhanbatu	16.341	16.019	16.646
Labuanbatu Utara	36.198	34.541	34.672

District/City	Number of Poor Population of North Sumatra Propinche		
	2018	2019	2020
Nias Utara	36.146	34.237	34.588
Nias Barat	21.718	20.832	21.105
Sibolga	10.782	10.792	10.471
Tanjungbalai	25.062	24.332	23.357
Pematangsiantar	21.882	21.877	21.115
Tebing Tinggi	16.502	16.161	16.194
Medan	185.413	182.943	182.620
Binjai	15.930	15.502	15.794
Padangsidempuan	16.611	15.892	16.415
Gunungsitoli	25.683	22.872	23.372
Total	1.146.782	1.044.892	1.274.563

Source : <https://www.bps.go.id/>

From the data in table 1 above, it can be seen that starting from 2018-2020 the number of poor people in North Sumatra in 2018 amounted to 1,146,782 million people, decreased in 2019 to 1,044,892 people and in 2020 experienced an increase of 1,274,563 soul.

**Tabel 2.** Number of Poor Population in Labuhan Batu selatan Regency Year 2018-2020

Kecamatan	Number of Poor Population		
	2018	2019	2020
Sungai Kanan	2.717	2.657	2.774
Torgamba	1.608	1.584	1.630
Kotapinang	3.120	3.066	3.170
Silangkitang	5.850	5.732	5.963
Kampung Rakyat	3.046	2.980	3.109
<b>Jumlah</b>	<b>16.341</b>	<b>16.019</b>	<b>16.646</b>

Source : <https://labuhanbatuselatankab.bps.go.id/>

Based on table 2, it can be seen that the number of poor people in South Labuhan Batu Regency in 2018 was 16,341 people, which decreased in 2019 to 16,019 people, while in 2020 the number of poor people in South Labuhan Batu Regency increased to 16,646 people.

Poverty that occurs in this area is caused by the low Human Resources of the people of the area, this happens because of the low level of education owned by residents of Silangkitang District, South Labuhan Batu Regency. As a result, many residents are unemployed because it is difficult to find work due to low education, because of this the level of trust of local companies is low to employ local people in their companies. Poverty also occurs because the natural conditions that can be seen are getting worse. Because the work of the people of Silangkitang District, South Labuhan Batu Regency, is dominant as fishermen. They can only

catch fish depending on the weather conditions. Sometimes erratic tidal sea conditions cause fisherman's income to be uncertain.

The government in its efforts to reduce the high poverty rate is by increasing the effectiveness of poverty reduction, through poverty alleviation programs such as the implementation of social protection-based programs (JAMKESMAS, RASKIN, BSM, PKH), community empowerment-based programs (PNPM), micro-enterprise empowerment (KUR), program -This program is based on Article 1 paragraph (9) of Law No. 11 of 2009 concerning social welfare which stipulates that: "Social protection is all efforts directed at preventing and dealing with risks from social shocks and vulnerabilities.

One of the special programs issued by the government in the context of accelerating poverty reduction is the Conditional Cash Assistance Program known as the Family Hope Program (PKH) which has been implemented since 2007. The Family Hope Program, hereinafter referred to as PKH, is a program of providing conditional social assistance to poor families (PKH). KM) designated as PKH beneficiary families (Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2021).

PKH is an effort to build a social protection system for the poor in order to maintain and improve the social welfare of the poor as well as an effort to cut the chain of poverty. PKH is more intended as an effort to build a social protection system for the poor in order to improve the social welfare of the poor as well as an effort to break the chain of poverty that has occurred so far. PKH is a social assistance and protection program that is included in cluster I of poverty reduction strategies in Indonesia. This program is a conditional cash transfer related to education and health requirements.

Regulation of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 1 of 2018 concerning the Target of PKH Access is a family and/or someone who is poor and vulnerable in the area of PKH Access which is registered in the integrated data of the program for handling the poor which has components of health, education, and/or social welfare.

PKH is one of the government's efforts in accelerating poverty reduction and specifically aims to break the intergenerational poverty chain. As well as changing the poorest groups, with the PKH social assistance provided by the government for the poor in South Labuhan Batu Regency, they can meet basic needs in daily life and are able to improve welfare due to economic difficulties on household expenses. As we know, many poor people or recipients of aid still complain of economic difficulties, even though the government has made efforts with the existence of PKH which is expected to improve the welfare of the poor. However, many funds or assistance provided by the government to the community have been misused by buying things that are not needed at all.

As we all know, there are currently many recipients of aid who are not well targeted, some people claim that they are not capable even though they are able and do not deserve to receive social assistance but participate in registering as candidates for PKH members. Incidents like this often occur in South Labuhan Batu Regency. Although the criteria for PKH recipients have been set, many are said to be able to become PKH recipients. This causes a lot of data on the poor that are still in doubt so that it will have an impact on the inappropriate targeting of PKH funds for people who are entitled to it. So that it is no longer the poor who receive, even other people can receive PKH.

## METHOD

The basic method used in this research is to use an inductive descriptive analysis approach. Where in this study all factors both oral and written from data sources were taken and presented to answer the problems in the study.

In this study, the population was all households who received the Family Hope Program (PKH) before and during the Covid-19 pandemic in Silangkitang District, which consisted of Ulumahuam Kerasa Village, which amounted to 299 household heads and Rintis Village, totaled 63 people. so the total population in the study amounted to 359 residents. In this study, the sampling technique that will be used in this study is a non-probability sampling technique, where the author assigns 50 respondents using purposive sampling, namely the sampling technique based on certain considerations, namely the poor who received PKH assistance before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The data collection techniques used are 1) interviews as a direct communication technique to obtain the required data, 2) Questionnaires, namely data collection techniques through distributing a set of list of questions to respondents who have become research samples.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study are described using a comparative approach. This study uses an instrument in the form of a questionnaire with 15 statement items consisting of 5 statement items for the PKH policy Before Covid 19, 10 statement items for the PKH policy variable during the Covid 19 period. This research questionnaire was distributed and given 50 respondents consisting of the Ulumahuam Village community. and Rintis Village.

The results of the research questionnaire data that were distributed were then scored using the Likert scale method and then tabulated, and processed using the SPSS program, then the research data was described through primary data in the form of a questionnaire that had been tested and presented in the form of a frequency table and concluded based on the following characteristics of the respondent's identity.

### Characteristics of Respondent's identity

The characteristics that become the identity of the respondents in Tables 3, 4 and 5 show the characteristics of the respondents based on the assessment criteria of gender, age, education level and occupation of the respondents who were sampled in the study. The respondent's identity data can be explained as follows:

**Table 3.** Characteristics of Respondents Based on Gender

Gender	PKH Community	
	Frequency	Percent
Male	20	40,0
Famale	30	60,0
Total	50	100,0

Source: SPSS Data Processing Results (processed), 2021

Based on the data in table 3 above, it shows that based on the characteristics of the gender data, the majority of respondents in this study were female, namely 30 people (60.0%) and the minority was male as many as 20 people (40.0%).

Thus it can be concluded that the identity characteristics of respondents based on gender in this study the majority of respondents who participated in the PKH program were people with the female gender.

**Table 4.** Characteristics of Respondents Based on Age

Age	PKH Community	
	Frequency	Percent
< 30 years old	32	64,0
30-55 years old	16	32,0
> 55 years old	2	4,0
Total	50	100,0

Source: SPSS Data Processing Results (processed), 2021

Based on the data in table 4 above, it shows that based on the age characteristics of the respondents, the majority of PKH have an age group of < 30 years as many as 32 (64.0%) and in the age group with a range of 30-55 years as many as 16 people (32.0%) and minority in the age group > 55 years as many as 2 people (4.0%).

Thus, it can be concluded that based on the age characteristics of the respondents conducted in this study, the majority of respondents in the community who are members of PKH are in the age group < 30 years and are followed by respondents with an age range of 30-55 years.

**Table 5.** Characteristics of Respondents Based on Occupation

Profession	PKH Community	
	Frequency	Percent
Farmers/Fisherman	28	56,0
laborer	15	30,0
entrepreneur	7	14,0
Total	50	100,0

Source: SPSS Data Processing Results (processed), 2021

Based on the data table 5 shows that based on the characteristics of the respondents' work, the majority of respondents have farmer or fisherman education as many as 28 people (56.0%) and in labor jobs as many as 15 people (30.0%) and the rest with self-employed jobs as many as 7 people (14,0%).

#### Discussion

The results of the study show that the quality of life of households receiving PKH policies during the COVID-19 pandemic, their quality of life decreased compared to before the pandemic. This is because people receiving PKH are increasingly difficult, this is indicated by the respondents' answers to their monthly data income. IDR 500,000.00 to IDR 1,000,000.00 because during the covid 19 pandemic their business was quiet and some of their business was closed.

From the results of research on PKH beneficiaries in Silangkitang District, the most important positive impact of the provision of Family Hope Program assistance is reducing the

burden of expenditure for Very Poor Households. That is the reason they say that the main impact is reducing their burden in terms of accessing their children's education at the elementary, junior high, high school levels where before receiving PKH assistance their children's education was interrupted but after PKH assistance the children can continue again. school to a better level of education.

The second positive impact is increasing participation in health checks for children under five and social welfare to ensure the provision of nutritional intake for the elderly and disabled. From the explanation above, after receiving assistance from the Family Hope Program, the aspects of education and health for Very Poor Households underwent changes. This is evidenced by the social conditions of PKH participants who are currently experiencing changes in the fields of education and health that are more appropriate. Given that education and health are important aspects of life that must be fulfilled optimally.

The Family Hope Program (PKH) is one of the government's efforts in accelerating poverty reduction and specifically aims to break the intergenerational poverty chain. As well as changing the poorest groups, with the PKH social assistance provided by the government for the poor in South Labuhan Batu Regency, they can meet basic needs in daily life and are able to improve welfare due to economic difficulties on household expenses. As we know, many poor people or recipients of aid still complain of economic difficulties, even though the government has made efforts with the existence of PKH which is expected to improve the welfare of the poor. However, many funds or assistance provided by the government to the community have been misused by buying things that are not needed at all.

### **The development of PKH policy funds before and during the covid-19 pandemic in Ulumahum Village, Silangkitang District, Labuhanbatu Selatan Regency**

There is a difference between the PKH policy before the Pandemic and the PKH Policy during the Pandemic, it can be seen that the amount of funds received before the pandemic period for pregnant women was Rp. 2,400,000 while during the pandemic it changed to Rp. 3,000,000. Likewise, funds for early childhood, elementary, junior high, high school, severe disabilities and the elderly. Not only that, assistance in the form of basic necessities has also changed or the government has increased the amount of basic food assistance which was previously Rp. 150,000/family, to Rp. 200,000/family.

The increase in poverty in Silangkitang District is caused by low community Human Resources (HR), where the level of public education in Silangkitang District is still low. Thus, many people are unemployed. because of this low level of education, the level of confidence of these regional companies is also low to employ local people in their companies.

Poverty also occurs because the natural conditions that can be seen are getting worse. Because the occupation of the people of Silangkitang Subdistrict, Labuhan Batu Selatan Regency is dominant as fishermen, they can only catch fish depending on weather conditions. Sometimes erratic tidal sea conditions cause fisherman's income to be uncertain.

One of the special programs issued by the government in the context of accelerating poverty reduction is the Conditional Cash Assistance Program known as the Family Hope Program (PKH) which has been implemented since 2007. PKH is an effort to build a social protection system for the poor in order to maintain and improve social welfare. the poor as well as an effort to cut the chain of poverty. PKH is more intended as an effort to build a social protection system for the poor in order to improve the social welfare of the poor as well as an effort to break the chain of poverty that has occurred so far. PKH is a social assistance and



protection program that is included in cluster I of poverty reduction strategies in Indonesia. This program is a conditional cash transfer related to education and health requirements.

PKH is one of the government's efforts in accelerating poverty reduction and specifically aims to break the intergenerational poverty chain. As well as changing the poorest groups, with the PKH social assistance provided by the government for the poor in South Labuhan Batu Regency, they can meet basic needs in daily life and are able to improve welfare due to economic difficulties on household expenses. As we know, many poor people or recipients of aid still complain of economic difficulties, even though the government has made efforts with the existence of PKH which is expected to improve the welfare of the poor. However, many funds or assistance provided by the government to the community have been misused by buying things that are not needed at all.

As we all know, there are currently many recipients of aid who are not well targeted, some people claim that they are not capable even though they are able and do not deserve to receive social assistance but participate in registering as candidates for PKH members. Incidents like this often occur in South Labuhan Batu Regency. Although the criteria for PKH recipients have been established, many are said to be able to become PKH recipients. This causes a lot of data on the poor that are still in doubt so that it will have an impact on the inappropriate targeting of PKH funds for people who are entitled to it. So that it is no longer the poor who receive, even other people can receive PKH.

### **Policy Evaluation of the Family Program Recipients of the PKH Policy in Ulumahuam Village, Silangkitang District, Labuhan Batu Seletan Regency**

Based on the results of research, people who followed the PKH policy in Silangkitang District during the pandemic due to decreased income due to the business being closed so that the community had no income and finally they got advice from the Dusun Head to join or register as PKH members.

The increase in poverty that occurred in Silangkitang District was due to the pandemic period so that some people who used to work as laborers were now home or laid off due to a reduction in workers from the company, this caused the poverty level in Silangkitang District to increase.

However, there are some people who do not get PKH assistance, but there are people who are able to actually get PKH assistance, this shows that the data compiled by PKH officers and PKH officers prioritize their own families over the poor who deserve PKH assistance.

Poverty that occurs in this area is caused by the low Human Resources (HR) of the people of the area, this happens because of the low level of education owned by residents of Silangkitang District, South Labuhan Batu Regency. Thus, many residents are unemployed because it is difficult to get a job because of low education, because of this the level of trust of local companies is low to employ local people in their companies. Poverty also occurs because the natural conditions that can be seen are getting worse. Because the occupation of the people of Silangkitang Subdistrict, Labuhan Batu Selatan Regency is dominant as fishermen, they can only catch fish depending on weather conditions. Sometimes erratic tidal sea conditions cause fisherman's income to be uncertain.

## CONCLUSION

1. The results of the study show that the quality of life of households receiving PKH policies during the covid 19 pandemic has decreased compared to before the pandemic. This is because people receiving PKH are in increasingly difficult conditions, this is indicated by the respondents' answers to the average monthly data income. respondents answered 500-1 million because during the covid 19 pandemic their business was quiet and some of their businesses closed.
2. There is a difference between the PKH policy before the Pandemic and the PKH Policy during the Pandemic, it can be seen that the amount of funds received before the pandemic for pregnant women was Rp. 2,400,000 while during the pandemic it was Rp. 3,000,000. Likewise, funds for early childhood, elementary, junior high, high school, severe disabilities and the elderly. Not only that, assistance in the form of basic necessities has also changed or the government has increased the amount of basic food assistance which was previously Rp. 150,000/Family, to Rp.200,000/Family.
3. With the PKH policy, it is hoped that the poor will decrease but in fact the poor are increasing in South Labuhan Batu Regency.

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