

GOVERNMENT POLICIES IN HANDLING AND OVERCOMING THE PROBLEMS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

This research will be carried out to see how the policies made by the Indonesian government can overcome and suppress the spread of Covid-19. In practice, this research will use a qualitative approach. This research method will use a literature study. The data used in this study came from various research results and previous studies that are still relevant to this research. This study found that the Indonesian government has implemented various policies to overcome the problems of the Covid-19 pandemic. Several policies that the government has implemented include policies to stay at home, carry out large-scale social restrictions, limit physical interaction, always use personal protective equipment such as masks, always maintain personal hygiene, do learning and work from home, stop various activities that cause a lot of people to gather, and finally implement the new normal policy. In addition to these various policies, the government has also implemented policies in the form of social protection and social assistance to provide guarantees to the community to be able to survive during the pandemic.

Keywords : Pandemic Handling; Government Policy; Covid-19

INTRODUCTION

People in Indonesia are well-versed in the history of epidemics like cholera and bubonic plague. The shipment of pilgrims has carried cholera to Indonesia, where it was first discovered in the second decade of the nineteenth century in Saudi Arabia. In the early 20th century, bubonic plague and influenza became more frequent as a result of growing maritime traffic between the Dutch East Indies and Europe (Shaw-Taylor, 2020). Countries throughout the world are fighting coronavirus or commonly referred to as COVID-19. COVID-19 has made threats not only threats to the health sector of each country but also threatens the economic sector (Zulkarnaen, W., et al., 2020).

From December 31, 2019 to mid-June 2020, and maybe until the end of 2020, the advent of a new type of viral sickness known as Corona Virus 2019 would cause the people of Indonesia to endure extended misery. Infections caused by Coronaviruses can range from mild to severe. Infectious disease COVID-19, which stands for Coronavirus Disease 2019, is a new discovery. This strain of COVID virus is also known as Sars-CoV-2 (Park, 2020).

Influenza, avian flu, and cholera are all examples of epidemic diseases that are similar to the coronavirus, but the coronavirus is unique. People that are exposed to

COVID-19 experience excruciating pain. In the event that he has infected anyone, the government will isolate all citizens, including those who are sick and those who are otherwise well (Niknamian & Zaminpira, 2020). Quarantine places in hospitals for those who are already infected, while those who are healthy will be quarantined at their respective homes independently. For the sake of preventing and avoiding the transmission of coronavirus, self-isolation is carried out (Wilder-Smith et al., 2020). However, the epidemic of COVID-19 has nearly everyone bewildered. New unpredictability exacerbates the gravity of the situation. Because of the Covid-19 outbreak, we need to recognize, overcome and prevent it as soon as possible in order to get this uncertainty under control (Bozkurt et al., 2020).

The government has enacted a number of rules to prevent the spread and transmission of the coronavirus across the community. Some of the government's policies are written, while others are not. Examples include Law (UU), Government Regulation in lieu of Law (PERPU), Government Regulation (PP), Presidential Regulation (PERPRES), Ministerial Regulation (PERMEN), Regional Regulations (PERDA), Regent Regulations (PERBUP), Mayor Regulations (PERWALI), and others such as Decrees (SK) and letters from the government (Putra et al., 2020). As well as restrictions and appeals about the prevention and control of COVID-19 contained in unwritten policies are invites from government, community, traditional, cultural, and religious leaders (Alimi et al., 2020).

In response to the escalating growth and transmission of Corona, the President declared COVID-19 a national calamity on April 17, 2020, via Presidential Decree No. 12 of 2020. The incidence of coronavirus continues to rise (Ogunleye et al., 2020). In Indonesia, the number of positive corona cases reached tens of thousands by mid-2020, including tens of thousands of recovered patients and thousands of patients who died. If no action is done quickly, the number of people infected with Corona continues to rise (Fealy, 2020).

Reactions to the discovery that COVID-19 is a pandemic have been varied. Others are terrified, angry, panicked, perplexed, and saddened by what they see and hear. The coronavirus had a devastating effect on the population, causing fear and anxiety (Lee et al., 2020). Among the four types of trauma caused by the coronavirus,

Abdullah has identified "social withdrawal," "hysteria," "violent act," and "collective attachment" as the most common forms (Lee et al., 2020).

The coronavirus has a tremendous, global, and gigantic influence. It influences the degree of public health as well as economic, social, psychological, cultural, political, governmental, educational, athletic, and religious activities, among others (Jakovljevic et al., 2020). Therefore, appropriate government policies are needed to prevent and overcome this coronavirus. Strategies to prevent and treat Corona-infected people, as well as policies to counteract the coronavirus's social, psychological, and economic effects, are required (Previtali et al., 2020).

This article will explore the public's reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, the execution of government policies linked to the prevention and management of the pandemic, and the impact of executing these government policies. The community's impact on public health and its social, psychological, economic, and religious dimensions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Public Policy

A policy is the guiding principle or mode of action that guides decision-making. Not only does the policy relate to state apparatus, but it is also a government tool in the sense of governance that deals with the administration of public resources. A policy is a set of choices or decisions that affect how natural, financial, and human resources are managed and distributed for the benefit of the public (Stone & Ladi, 2015).

In many definitions of public policy, the majority of experts stress decision-making or government action deemed to have a positive impact on citizens. According to Bridgeman, public policy is "anything the government chooses to do or not do." This implies that public policy consists of whatever the government decides to do or not do (Denhardt & Denhardt, 2015).

Thus, the policy is a provision that specifies ways of operating that are planned and consistent with overcoming obstacles and attaining particular objectives. Leaders must be able to formulate policies that promote the "common good" (Cejudo & Michel, 2017). Ironically, however, not all public leaders can demonstrate effective leadership during a crisis, which can lead to the erosion of leadership legitimacy and even a crisis of faith in the system (Gebert et al., 2016).

It should be noted that leadership is not enough for an actor or state, or regional elite because every policy output is how the implementation of the policy is implemented. According to Jones, policy implementation is simple to comprehend theoretically and conceptually, but not necessarily in a tangible form, as its real implementation is not always straightforward (Jones & Zeng, 2019). The process of implementation is not a mechanical one in which each player does automatically whatever is required by the policymakers' scenario. This implies that it is a sophisticated, conflicted process involving multiple actors in order to define objectives, goals, and execution techniques. The implementation of government initiatives to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia may be delayed, abused, or deviated from their intended course due to a number of other variables (Neto et al., 2019).

METHOD

This method is implemented using a qualitative approach. Literature study is the method used in this research. The data used in this study were sourced from previous studies and studies that still have relevance to this research. The research data collected by the researcher will be processed so that later the results of this study can be found with satisfactory conclusions.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Since December 31, 2019, the WHO has reported a new disease in Wuhan known as the Coronavirus. In a short period of time, the coronavirus has spread throughout China and even to Europe. Up to February 2020, no instances of Corona infection had been reported in Indonesia. The President, accompanied by the Minister of Health, declared two new cases of Covid 19 in Depok on March 2, 2020. Then on March 17, 2020, the Covid 19 emergency response will be activated (Ali et al., 2020).

As soon as the COVID-19 pandemic broke out at the beginning of March 2020, the federal government put in place a number of measures to combat and ultimately defeat the disease, including: staying at home, social isolation, physical separation, the use of personal protective equipment (masks), the maintenance of personal hygiene (washing hands), working from home, postponing all activities that draw large crowds, and large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) (Masters et al., 2020).

Following the implementation of the government's policy, all community activities, particularly those involving "face-to-face" engagement, i.e. human-to-human

interaction, were originally conducted directly outside the home. Human activities such as factory, industrial and business operations; education; office; social; sports; political; and religious; are all prohibited in the workplace under COVID-19. They can only be carried out at home owing to the legislation (Abidah et al., 2020).

The government's policy prohibiting citizens from leaving their homes during the pandemic is, of course, in stark contrast to the residents' behavior before the Corona outbreak. When social and physical isolation and stay-at-home laws are implemented by the government, the habits, traditions, and customs of the people will be completely altered (Barbarossa, 2020). Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, residents were able to engage with one another openly and communicate "face-to-face," immediately, freely, and outside the home. As a result, communication was kept to a minimum, and all activities took place solely within the confines of the home. Mental instability and "cultural shock" are consequences of this government policy, especially for the highly migratory metropolitan population. This poses new difficulties and obstacles for the government and society (Bilal et al., 2020). (Table 1)

1. Government Policy in Handling the COVID-19 Pandemic

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the following government initiatives have been implemented to minimize the spread of Coronavirus transmission and limit its impact on the community:

- a) Stay-at-home policy
- b) Social Restriction Policy
- c) Physical Restriction Policy
- d) Policy on Use of Personal Protective Equipment
- e) Policies on Personal Hygiene
- f) Work and Study at home Policy
- g) Policy Suspend all activities that gather crowds
- h) Large-Scale Social Restriction Policy (PSBB)
- i) New Normal policy implementation

In addition to policies to prevent transmission of the coronavirus, the Government of Indonesia has also implemented various policies to protect people with low levels of welfare, especially the Social Welfare Service (PPKS) group, from the negative impacts of COVID-19. As of May 1, 2020, 159 countries have planned,

introduced or adapted 752 types of social protection to mitigate the negative impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. Since March 20, there has been a threefold increase in the number of countries and an eightfold increase in the types of social protection. For the Social Safety Net, the government has prepared a budget of 110 trillion rupiahs, which consists of the Family Hope Program (PKH), Basic Food Program, Pre-Employment Card, Electricity Subsidy, housing incentives, Jabodetabek Basic Food, Non-Jabodetabek Cash Social Assistance, and other Social Safety Net Programs.

Social aid and social protection from the government are essential during this current outbreak of COVID-19 since they can be the lifeblood of millions of impacted persons. Construction workers, manufacturing workers, farmers, fishers, motorcycle taxi drivers, traders, employees, contract workers and odd jobs; as well as all socioeconomic classes in society are eligible for social welfare services (PPKS). Unfortunately, years of inadequate data management have left President Joko Widodo's social safety net policy in shambles on the ground. The facts on the ground have confirmed that poor government data has caused a commotion among the people, not only at the central level but also at the regional level. The local news media reported this confusion regarding social assistance, which explained that the Social Safety Net Program to reduce the impact of COVID-19 is random, overlapping, and mistargeted due to erratic data.

The chaotic government policy regarding social assistance for victims of this health disaster occurred in the form of overlapping aid distribution due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is because a ministerial decision complicates its efforts to distribute aid to the people who need it most.

Dismal stories about the chaos in the distribution of aid also occur in many places in Indonesia. In other areas, for example, the head of the Rukun Warga (Rukun Warga) has refused to help because the data on the residents they proposed has been cut for no apparent reason. On the other hand, in Bogor, West Java, dozens of wealthy housing residents received cash assistance. In other places, you can find the same view. These various incidents led to chaos in the data collection system for residents who had fallen into poverty due to the Corona outbreak.

The amount of aid allocated by the government for the poor and those affected by COVID-19 is quite adequate. The central government provides four types of regular

social assistance, including the Family Hope Program (PKH), with a total aid of IDR 37.4 trillion for 10 million families and a distribution of basic necessities worth IDR 43.6 trillion for 20 million families. In addition, the government has diverted 35 percent of this year's total Village Fund, amounting to Rp 72 trillion, into direct cash assistance. Special social assistance is also for certain areas hardest hit by the COVID-19 outbreak. In regions, each local government innovates to allocate special funds for the COVID-19 pandemic. The social assistance was given in cash and food packages or nine necessities.

It would be very unfortunate if such a large amount of funds were mistargeted, not even reaching those social groups who need assistance who should receive social assistance. So this is the main problem of the nation regarding social assistance that has not been completed, namely the problem of target groups that are "not right on target" and the problem of data on recipients of social assistance that is not following the real number of poor people in the field. Although the government has tried to correct this data, the fundamental problem in distributing social assistance has not been resolved.

2. How to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

Before knowing how to prevent the coronavirus, it is important for us as citizens first to know how to spread the coronavirus. The virus is transmitted through direct contact with respiratory fluid droplets from an infected individual (through coughing and sneezing). Additionally, individuals might become infected by contacting contaminated surfaces and by touching their faces (e.g. eyes, nose, mouth). The COVID-19 virus can live for several hours on surfaces, although disinfectants can eliminate it.

After the coronavirus became epidemic and claimed many lives from early March 2020 to June 2020, the coronavirus was widely reported on TV and social media. With a lot of media coverage related to the coronavirus, public knowledge regarding COVID-19 is formed due to concerns and even fears of being infected. The knowledge inherent in people's minds regarding COVID-19 is:

- a) The spread of the coronavirus is very fast
- b) Corona Virus is deadly
- c) Corona Virus originated in China (Wuhan)
- d) Coronavirus attacks the respiratory tract
- e) The Coronavirus outbreak is spreading globally (global pandemic)

f) Corona virus has common symptoms such as cough and flu;

Because public perception about Corona has been created, particularly knowledge about how to disseminate and the dangers of the lethal coronavirus, it is unlikely that the virus will be eradicated. Then the next attitude that is needed by the community is to prevent and stop the coronavirus from infecting more people. The next stage is to stop the spread of the coronavirus in order to reduce the number of victims. As recommended by the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, residents can take efforts to prevent and slow the spread of the coronavirus.

First, maintain a distance of at least 1.5 meters from other individuals, especially when outdoors or in crowded public areas. Second, if you are obliged to leave the house, do it only for extremely important and urgent reasons. When traveling or leaving the house, always wear a mask, and cover the mouth and nose with a bent elbow or a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Used tissues should be discarded immediately for reasons of health. Always wash your hands with soap and water running from a faucet. Always use a disinfectant to clean regularly touched surfaces and objects. Develop a habit of consuming foods and beverages with balanced nutrition. Seventh, improving the body's immunity by regular exercise, appropriate rest, and sunbathing between 6:00 and 9:00 in the morning. Avoid sensations of worry, restlessness, panic, and excessive stress, which lower the body's immune system.

To avoid coronavirus transmission, homeowners must also take the following precautions. Various ways that residents can do so that residents can avoid the transmission of COVID-19 are as follows: First, avoid taking public transportation (buses, trains, etc.) when traveling; Second, avoid entertainment areas such as cinemas, malls, restaurants, cafes, etc.; Third, restricting expenditure to only life's essentials and necessities, such as nine fundamental items. Reduce direct interaction with residents (social and physical separation); Avoid visiting health institutions (hospitals, health centers, clinics, doctors) as long as the pandemic is ongoing, even if the sickness does not match the symptoms of COVID-19. When inhabitants suffer from illnesses such as stomach ulcers, typhoid, or the common cold, the hospital infects them with the coronavirus. As a result, several individuals perished owing to an incorrect

identification of the condition. Finally, is staying at home or spending the entire day at home with family (stay at home with family).

CONCLUSION

Several government policies were made to overcome the problem of the spread of the Corona virus so that it no longer spreads. This effort is to make policies so that people only carry out activities at home, maintain physical distance from other people, use equipment to protect themselves when they want to travel such as using masks, cleaning themselves diligently, doing various jobs and studying at home, and prohibit any activities that cause people to gather. In practice, government policies will fail if the information and data needed to see cases of the spread of Covid-19 are inaccurate.

Far more significant is the fact that the government, as the leader and decision-maker, must develop a social protection policy program not only for Socioeconomic Welfare Service (PPKS) groups, but for all social classes.

Insofar as the government is able to develop excellent policy schemes (good policies) to avoid and mitigate the effects of the coronavirus on the community, it will be deemed to have fulfilled its responsibilities as a good government and good governance in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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TABLE

Table 1. Comparison of Community Interaction Patterns Before and After COVID-19

Indonesian Society Interaction Pattern	
Before the COVID-19 Pandemic	After the COVID-19 Pandemic
Interaction between residents is carried out directly and “face-to-face”.	Interaction between residents is done indirectly using information technology media.
Interaction between citizens is carried out freely and openly in public spaces.	Interaction between residents is done in a closed and limited (home)
Social, business, cultural, educational, religious, and sports activities, etc., in the form of a crowd, are allowed and not limited in number.	Social, business, cultural, educational, religious, and sporting activities, in the form of crowds, are prohibited or allowed in small numbers of people.
The main teacher of the students is the teacher.	Parents (especially mothers) and internet media are also the teachers for students.
Face-to-face educational learning system in the classroom.	Online educational learning system.
Society has high mobility	Society has low mobility
All activities are carried out outside the home.	All activities are carried out at home (work/study from home)
Less internet penetration	Internet penetration is huge