

Innovation of Political Policy Based on Community Development in Handling Covid-19

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Abstract

In March 2020, World Health Organization states that Covid-19 is an ongoing global pandemic where the disease has claimed thousands of human lives worldwide in a short period. This problem has an impact on almost all countries in the world and all lines of state life, including those related to political policies. This paper aims to analyze the innovation of political policy based on community development in handling Covid-19. This paper uses descriptive qualitative research with literature study methods related to political policies based on community development in the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia. The results and discussions of this research have been carried out the innovation of political policy based on community development in handling Covid-19. First, the political policy in health protocol based on community development. Second, the political policy in distribution of welfare based on community development. According to the findings of this study, in dealing the impact of Covid-19, the political policy and community development with active participation have been carried out optimally in Indonesia. This shows the Indonesia government's commitment to global health.

Keywords: Community Development; Covid-19; Political Policy.

INTRODUCTION

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The existence of the Corona Virus Disease 19 (Covid-19) in Indonesia is increasingly troubling the public. This disease was first discovered in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. However, due to its rapid spread, almost all countries in the world have contracted the deadly disease in less than two months. Covid-19 is a new disease caused by a virus and has never been identified by humans before. In Indonesia itself, Covid-19 is a national disaster as of March 2020 (Dzulfaroh, 2021).

The speedy process of spreading the virus requires each country's governments to appeal to the people to limit activities outside the home. In Indonesia, these restrictions impact all aspects of people's lives, especially economic factors. Many workers, both formal and informal, have experienced a decrease in income.

The Covid-19 outbreak in Indonesia has impacted aspects of public health, but all aspects of life, such as education, social, and primarily economic. Accordingly, the Indonesian Government has made various efforts to minimize the spread of Covid-19, such as the recommendation of physical distancing in public places, implementation of work from home for office employees, school learning methods carried out online, to large-scale social restrictions.

As it is known, Indonesia is still high with poverty and unemployment rates, so this makes it essential for the Government to focus on improvements in people's live. However, the fact is that the various assistance provided by the Government is deemed insufficient for the majority of the community and it makes them inevitably continue to carry out activities outside the home as usual (Elyta, Martoyo, & Herlan, 2021). And to make matters worse, the social assistance funds that the Government has budgeted are corrupted by elements of the ruling government party, and the funds seem to flow to the party. Even though there is a need for the political policy that goes well to harmonize community development in the face of Covid-19.

The political policy referred to the successes in Taiwan, South Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, and Germany stems from the seriousness of the Government when it heard of the Covid-19 outbreak so that it can quickly take the necessary responsive steps according to the conditions of each country (Dugis, 2020). Thus, the political policy based on community development needs to be done to overcome a problem as part of a country's politics (Elyta & Martoyo, 2021).

The state has a political policy in mobilizing the community towards the goals of the process through public policy. The general policy process places its focus on the political process and politically engaged stakeholders. Community development is in line with the active participation of the community (Schutte, 2016). By making political changes to the Indonesian political system, the people should be more active and participate in various political activities. The concept of



community development can also be interpreted geographically, derivatively, teleologically, and functionally; namely, geographically, there is a process of political change in developing countries concerning the successes used by developed countries.

Then derivatively, community development is an aspect and a political consequence of a comprehensive change process which includes economic growth, urbanization, increased education, security, mass media, changes in social status, and other aspects. Base on the background, this research focused on to analyze the innovation of political policy based on community development in handling Covid-19. The focus faced is not only on domestic conditions but also on international relations between countries. For example, in the Covid-19 pandemic, decision-making as the political policy from the Government is structural-vertical because policies must be implemented according to instructions from central leaders.

METHOD

This paper uses the type of qualitative research. It is analyzed using literature study studies related to government policies to improve the community's welfare in the Covid-19 pandemic, associated with the political policy and the community development process in Indonesia. A library study is a study whose research object is in journals, books, articles in the mass media. This literature study is used to find out the results of the policies taken by the Indonesian Government in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic as seen from the facts that have occurred and their relation to the community development process in Indonesia. The data were then analyzed with the stages of collecting data, summarizing, and concluding.

DISCUSSION

Innovation of Political Policy Based on Community Development in Handling Covid-19 Innovation of The Political Policy in Health Protocol Based on Community Development. The political policy in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic by issuing regulations requiring people to implement health protocols (Kartikasari & Elyta, 2021). Reduce activities outside the home, and implement curfew restrictions is very influential on people's lives, especially the lower middle class.

Many formal workers have to be terminated, traders and informal workers experience a decrease in income. Many business owners are also forced to close their businesses because the economy is not running.

In August 2020, it was noted that the amount of unemployed people in Indonesia had increased drastically from 2.67 million people to 9.77 million people (Aida, 2020). Taiwan's



experience in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic is one of the most successful examples so far (Rowen, 2020).

In addition, the Indonesian Government has also made various policies to help people affected by Covid-19, such as reducing electricity rates, distributing basic foodstuffs to cash assistance. This assistance is, of course, very beneficial for the community, especially the middle to lower class, who have intensely felt the impact of Covid-19.

Based on data from the Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia, these government assistance programs include the provision of the Family Hope Program to 10 million recipient families with a total budget of Rp37.4 trillion; providing basic food cards to 20 million recipients, who each receive Rp.200,000.00 per month; issuance of pre-employment cards to 5.6 million people by giving post-training incentives of Rp.600,000 for four months; discounting electricity tariffs for 900VA and exemption from electricity rates for 450VA; and provision of social assistance which is divided into three types, namely exceptional service for essential staple foods for the people of DKI Jakarta; basic food assistance for the people of Bogor, Depok, Tangerang and Bekasi; and direct cash assistance for people outside Jabodetabek amounting to IDR 600,000 for three months (Suryanto, 2020).

However, several government assistance policies to improve the community's welfare amid the pandemic did not receive good feedback from the public. The first example relates to government policies regarding pre-employment cards. Some people and some experts say that pre-employment cards are considered inappropriate to channel aid for people affected by Covid-19. Based on a survey conducted by the Alvara Research Center regarding the public response to Covid-19, people need cash and essential food assistance more than pre-employment cards. This is also caused by community satisfaction with the pre-work card program, which is considered relatively low (Farisa, 2020). Therefore, the use of pre-employment cards is considered less relevant to the conditions facing Indonesia today.

However, the relevant agencies argued that this was due to an increase in electricity use due to working from home. Therefore, the political policy is still disproportionate to the threat of Covid-19.

Some other people claim to have benefited from the subsidy policy to reduce electricity rates because it is felt to ease the economic burden on households during the Covid-19 pandemic. Community development in facing Covid-19 is carried out through active and sustainable community strengthening based on the principles of social justice, cooperation, and participation from the community in making it happen. However, those who are committed to community



development needs a participation from other actors, because they are unable to work alone. This requires a supportive actor such as political activism that is implemented in cooperation globally, nationally, and locally.

For a group of developing countries, the Covid-19 pandemic seems to be a perfect storm that destroys economic conditions because the shock of the pandemic then exacerbates the vulnerability of developing countries. The heavy burden on the health sector is further compounded by the drastic decline in the export sector, including the tourism sector, which is one of the mainstays of the economies of almost all developing countries. A sharp drop in demand for raw materials and finished products, in the end, quickly and drastically reduces the income of developing countries (Pazarbasioglu, 2020).

Since then, the political policy to Covid-19 has been increasingly cautious. The Indonesian Government is increasingly improving emergency response mechanisms, including for the Government to declare a national emergency immediately. The state also then socializes and communicates actively by implementing appropriate risk communication and involves more community involvement. The Government is also increasingly conducting tracing of positive cases of Covid-19 in Indonesia.

Innovation of The Political Policy in Distribution of Welfare Based on Community Development Community development is an active and sustainable community (Elyta & Darmawan, 2021). Strengthening process based on the principle of social justice, so cooperation and participation from the community itself are needed to make it happen (Elyta & Sahide, 2021). When viewed theoretically, political development goals are high economic growth, equitable distribution of welfare, democracy, stability, and national autonomy. With the community development and the unity of community can make a strengthen to Government policy.

However, the state's efforts and policies still have political overtones, which are only focused on increasing the popularity and electability of both individuals and parties. So that many procedures that are made and taken tend to be impressed only for imaging.

Especially amid a pandemic like today, the Government hopes that many aid policies can also increase public participation in certain political situations. The public is now more critical and questioning the effectiveness of the Government in distributing Covid-19 assistance.

Furthermore, related to the problem of social assistance, which is considered not on target. This is due to, among other things, the discovery of fictitious data to changes in the regional social situation that are not updated, which causes data on the poor to be potentially inaccurate (Ramadhan, 2020). In addition, in the early days of providing social assistance, the Supreme Audit



Agency of the Republic of Indonesia found that the poverty data used to distribute social service was data (Idtoday, 2021). In this case, the Government seems negligent in not updating the Integrated Social Welfare Data in each region in Indonesia, even though the updates should be done every six months.

The provision of assistance was not on target in its implementation. It was also revealed that the Minister of Social Affairs, Juliari Batubara, was proven to have received bribes related to the provision of Covid-19 social assistance amounting to Rp. Seventeen billion from the two periods of providing essential food assistance (Ramadhan, 2020). In addition, several times, it was also found that in providing social services such as basic foodstuffs, vendors often behave incompetently and rely on bribes. In the case that dragged the Minister of Social Affairs, it was also revealed that Indonesia's current ruling political party is suspected of having played a political policy in the misappropriation of social assistance funds. This certainly shows that the bureaucracy and mental elite of politics in Indonesia are classified as very bad.

There is also news that some officials and candidates for regional heads promoted by the ruling party are suspected of taking part in the bribery of the Covid-19 social assistance (CNN, 2020). Apart from acts of corruption, social service is also suspected of being used for the political interests of the ruling party. This includes being a challenge in community development in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. To develop society in the front of Covid-19, people need to remain productive in carrying out their economic activities. Therefore, it is imperative that the community carry out social interactions must follow the health protocols established by the Government.

However, people also need to take responsibility for their own welfare at the micro level instead of macro level. There are several ways to do this, such as giving efforts for community development to sustain social connectedness (Kenny, 2020).

Based on the presentation of the results of the political policy during this pandemic, it can be seen that the community development goals that the Indonesian Government wants to achieve about a democratic country have not been executed perfectly. When compared with one of the notions of community development, which states that mass participation is the most critical part of community development, the current political conditions in Indonesia reflect that Indonesia is still unable to implement the community development process in its political system.

All policies, both for health issues and public welfare made by the Government during this pandemic, have been carried out based on the community's needs in the field for the community's interest.

The Indonesian Government has made every effort to take policies that prioritize the safety



and welfare of the community in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic so that later people will feel fulfilled their needs and can reduce activities outside the home, thereby reducing the spread of the Covid-19 virus. To that end, the Indonesian state then responded to the Covid-19 response by issuing health protocol regulations, providing assistance to reduce electricity rates, distributing basic foodstuffs and cash. In addition, the state has also improved the emergency response mechanism, carried out socialization, involved the community, conducted tracing intensively.

State also faces obstacles; however, input from the public and global organizations is used as evaluation material, making further response increases. Meanwhile, community development in dealing with Covid-19 is carried out through active and sustainable community strengthening based on social justice, cooperation, and participation from the community in making it happen. As a community development effort in dealing with Covid-19, people in social interaction must follow the health protocol set by the Government. The community also continues to carry out daily activities productively, including in carrying out economic activities.

CONCLUSION

Starting from the city of Wuhan in China, the new type of Covid-19 virus has spread to various parts of the world, causing a pandemic. Not only is it detrimental from the health side, but Covid-19 also has a significant impact on Indonesia in the economic sector. Not only because the production of goods is disrupted, but the investment is also hampered. In facing this, the political policy provided by the Indonesian Government was carried out through several things starting from policies to limit activities, implementing health protocols, to assisting in the middle to lower class people who were deeply affected by the negative impact of Covid-19.

Thus, it has been seen that the country's responsive efforts in dealing with Covid-19 have been carried out as well as possible despite experiencing obstacles. Input from society and global organizations is still considered as input for future evaluation. This shows the commitment of the Indonesian state to global health security. In addition, community development in dealing with Covid-19 has been carried out through active and sustainable community strengthening based on social justice, cooperation, and participation from the community in making it happen. Various parties engaged in community development efforts move collaboratively, meaning they are not only moving individually. It is a manifestation of political activism through global, national and local cooperation.

Based on the results of research and discussions that have been carried out, the authors found the innovation of political policy based on community development in handling Covid-19.



First, the political policy in health protocol based on community development. Many factors influence the success rate of the political policy in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic. However, above each variable shown by the authors in each country, the Government's initial attitude is a crucial factor influencing the success of each the political policy.

Second, the political policy in distribution of welfare based on community development. The community development in dealing with Covid-19 is carried out through active and sustainable community strengthening based on social justice, cooperation, and participation from the community in making it happen. In the conclusion of this study, it has been seen that the political policy and community development with active participation have been carried out optimally to deal with the impact of Covid-19 in Indonesia. This shows the commitment of the Indonesian state to global health

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