

The Role of Social Assistance Programs to the Community

Nanik Rahmawati¹, Sri Wahyuni², Taufiqqurrachman³,
Marisa Elsera⁴, Emmy Solina⁵

{rachmawati_80@yahoo.co.id¹, sriwahyuni@umrah.ac.id², taufiqqurrachman@umrah.ac.id³,
marisaelsera@umrah.ac.id⁴, emmysolina@umrah.ac.id⁵}

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Maritim Raja
Ali Haji, Indonesia^{1,2,3,4,5}

Abstract. This study examines the role of social assistance in the community by emphasizing the usefulness of assistance, routine assistance, and evaluation of social assistance for the community. The study focuses on the impact of social assistance on the community before and after social assistance is provided. The design used is a literature review. The research was carried out from February 2022 to September 2022, with the object of research being the role of poverty assistance in the community. They collected data using the literature review method on 20 relevant research articles published from 2012 to 2021. The findings of this research show that social support plays the biggest influence when providing non-cash essentials. Social assistance in the form of cash is vulnerable to being used inappropriately, such as buying consumer goods. The role of social assistance is to provide social protection, social empowerment, social security, economic strengthening, and educational assistance for the recipients of social assistance.

Keywords: Poverty; social assistance; community

1. Introduction

In 2020, the realization of social assistance reached IDR 202.5 trillion, equivalent to 1.31 percent of GDP. This significant increase is a form of the government's response through the PEN program to reduce the impact of the pandemic [1]. Currently, programs consisting of basic food, social assistance, cash social assistance, pre-employment cards, family hope programs, and power subsidies are a type of government involvement to support individuals who may be impacted by social and economic repercussions [2]. However, social assistance often creates problems. For example, in a crisis and with limited funding sources, the implementation of social assistance will encounter many obstacles. Also, managing funds to be quickly and precisely on target is another problem when funds are available in sufficient quantities.

Similar previous studies have been carried out several times. First, research by Martha Carolina and Mutiara Shinta Andini in 2021 entitled Challenges of Social Assistance as part of Extraordinary Policy Responses in National Economic Recovery. The research concludes that for the social assistance policy to have a more optimal impact on the goals of national economic recovery, the government needs to pay attention to the following: improvements in aspects, mechanisms, or policy schemes. Harmonization of data, adjustment of coverage and amount of

benefits, improvement of timeliness of distribution, and strengthening of coordination between stakeholders. Encouraging the safety net program to meet three criteria for the effectiveness of the fiscal stimulus, namely timely (on time because it can be implemented immediately, without any time lag); targeted (targeting the target, the poor and vulnerable groups); and temporary (applicable temporarily because it will be completed along with the recovery of the Economy). Third, accelerate the updating of DTKS so that the targeting of social assistance follows the focus on people with the lowest 40 percent income in national economic recovery and minimize exclusion and inclusion errors in even temporary programs. Fourth, a more comprehensive social assistance monitoring mechanism prevents corruption or other inefficiencies from happening again [1].

Second, a study by Noni Noerkaisar in 2021 entitled *Effectiveness of Government Social Assistance Distribution to Overcome the Impact of Covid-19 in Indonesia*. The research concludes that the social assistance distributed by the government has not been effective so far. Problems are still encountered in almost all JPS lines, from upstream to downstream. The problems arising upstream are related to the validity of the social assistance recipient data. While downstream, several problems were found, including inaccurate targets in receiving aid, uneven distribution of aid, distribution processes that take a long time to reach beneficiaries, misappropriation of funds, illegal levies and a reduction in the nominal amount and resources received, inclusion and exclusion errors are caused by data collection that is not updated, to politicization. The unreliability of the database is a major factor in the distribution of government social assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is known from the previous discussion that the Integrated Data on Social Welfare (DTKS) was massively updated in 2015. Whereas if it refers to Article 8 Paragraph 5 of Law Number 13 of 2011 regarding the management of underprivileged communities, it is explained that data verification and validation should be carried out periodically, at least every two years. Not without reason, DTKS must always be updated regularly. It considers the role and function of DTKS as the main reference for the welfare of the Indonesian people. Especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, DTKS became the foundation for the distribution of various social assistance scenarios [25].

Third, research by Aji Dwi Utomo et al. in 2020 entitled *The Role of Government Cash Social Assistance Programs for Economic Improvement in Sumobito District, Jombang Regency*. The study concluded that the public's view of the Social Cash Assistance program in the Economy in the Sumobito - Jombang sub-district was very good because it was supported by full service from the sub-district by collecting data thoroughly, although some were not yet in the data but after submitting it was easily missed by the sub-district. Therefore, add to the list of social assistance recipients [9].

Fourth, research by Avriliyanti in 2015 entitled *The Impact of the Policy on Providing Social Assistance (Bansos) to the Poor in Padduppa Village, Tempe District, Wajo Regency*. The study concluded that the policy of providing social assistance (Bansos) to the poor in the Padduppa Village, Tempe District, Wajo Regency had a positive and a negative impact. The positive impact of providing social assistance to the poor, with the existence of social assistance, is that it can (1) provide social protection through a house renovation. The house is a basic human need that functions as a place to live or shelter and a means of family development. In essence, every citizen needs decent housing, but in reality, meeting the needs of livable houses is a problem for some people; (2) assisting the community in working to empower their lives, the provision of social assistance has had an impact on social empowerment in terms of increasing knowledge and assisting in providing the fulfillment of facilities so that the basic needs of the community can be met and can improve people's skills at work; (3) providing medical assistance for free, and (4) helping victims of natural disasters. Meanwhile, the negative

impact of social assistance is that it can (1) educate lazy life, (2) be prone to conflict, and (3) educate consumptive life.

Furthermore, the inaccuracy of the target recipients of social assistance is a problem that always arises when the government disburses social assistance [3]. In addition, there are overlapping social assistance programs initiated by the government, confusing their implementation [4]. The distribution of social assistance is also regarded as suboptimal for the community owing to the lack of clarity in the decision support system and the unreadiness of the administration [5]. Problems with the government's distribution of Social Assistance funds can be initiated by not monitoring and evaluating social beneficiaries. Therefore, this study aimed to analyze the role of government social assistance in Indonesian society. It is hoped that the discussion of this research can provide insight regarding the distribution of government social assistance so that future research can describe alternative, more varied, innovative solutions so that the distribution of government social assistance can run effectively [26].

It is interesting for researchers to examine the extent of the role of social assistance. Therefore, this issue is interesting and important to research because social assistance is expected to help ease the burden on the poor and to analyze the effectiveness of social assistance distribution. It is hoped that the discussion of this research can provide insight regarding the distribution of government social assistance so that future research can describe alternative solutions that are more varied and innovative so that the distribution of government social assistance can run effectively.

2. Literature Review.

2.1 Social Assistance

According to the Ministry of Social Affairs 2011, social assistance is temporary assistance provided to the poor with the intention that they can reasonably improve their lives. The social assistance program is one component of the social security program, which is a form of realization of the responsibility of the government or local government which is very concerned about the poor and neglected people at the lower level [6]. Furthermore, social assistance is the provision of compensation in the form of donations of goods from the government or an institution to individuals, families, communities, and the general public, which is not permanent and selective to save from the possibility of social threats [7]. Therefore, the government's social assistance to underprivileged communities is temporary or not continuous.

The assistance provided is aimed at enabling the underprivileged to meet their living standards in a balanced manner (Directorate General of Budget, The Ministry of Finance, 2015). In line with this, the Minister of Finance Regulation, 2015 states that social assistance is expenditure in the form of transfers of money, goods, or services provided by the government to the poor or unable to protect the community from possible social risks, improve the Economy and welfare of the community [8]. Furthermore, Social assistance policy is a tangible form of government responsibility, both central and regional, for the condition of its underprivileged and neglected people at the lowest level.

2.2 Criteria for Providing Social Assistance

Based on the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs Number 32 of 2011, the provision of social assistance has a statutory standard. Local governments can provide social assistance to residents or community groups equivalent to the regional financial capacity. People, families, and communities unable to meet their basic needs because of social, economic, political, disaster, or natural events are part of the population or community group. So are non-

government organizations, education, religion, and other sectors work to protect people, groups, and communities from social threats. As described in Article 22 paragraph (1), the distribution of social assistance meets the minimum standard, which is selective and includes the beneficiary's qualifications. The barometer of the qualifications of the beneficiary includes (1) having proof of identity, (2) residing in the administrative area of the surrounding local government, and (3) not being permanent and only temporary, but under certain conditions, it can be sustainable, and (4) according to the target of implementation.

2.3 Previous Research

The right policy is needed to solve this problem by first identifying groups of people living below the poverty line and their characteristics. Generally, a situation is called poor if it is characterized by a deficiency or inability to meet the level of basic human needs.

Poverty includes the non-fulfillment of basic needs, which include primary and secondary aspects. The primary aspect is poor knowledge and skill assets, while the second is poor social networks, financial resources, and informal, such as lack of nutrition, water, housing, poor health care, and relatively low education.

Among the scientific works discussing the role of social assistance in the community, a study was conducted entitled "The Role of Government Cash Social Assistance Program for Economic Improvement in Sumobito District, Jombang Regency." Using qualitative methods, collecting data by meeting face to face and interacting with people at the research site with a list of questions for interviews, data, and data analysis carried out by the researcher himself. The results obtained include: The public's view of the Social Cash Assistance program in the Economy in the Sumobito - Jombang sub-district is very good because top services support it from the sub-district by collecting data thoroughly.

However, certain subdistricts have not been included in the data, and when submitted, the subdistrict is easily overlooked on the list of social assistance users. Cash Social Assistance has been running, and the government plans to extend the social assistance distribution. According to policies managed and executed at the subdistrict and village levels, the village administration has done well administering social assistance. The sub-district office personnel is responsible for data collection and verification. As a result, sources of funds from the APBN and APBD are channeled properly [9].

A study entitled "The Role of Social Assistance in Aspects of Children's Education for Recipients of the Family Hope Program on the Welfare of Poor Households" Uses descriptive qualitative research methods. The research was conducted in Ngepeh Village, Sarada District, Madiun Regency, and the implementation time was three months. Data sources are informants who receive assistance from the family of hope program in the educational aspect. Data collection techniques using observation, interviews, and documentation.

The conclusion of this study shows that the role of social assistance in the aspect of children's education for recipients of the Family Hope Program can ease the burden of spending for poor households and increase parents' knowledge about PKH participation. As a result, children from poor households can complete elementary school even up to junior high and high school levels. However, as a result, people are lazy to work and hope for the assistance of the Family Hope Program [10].

"The Role of Social Assistance Funds on the Quality of Homes for the Poor Through the Home Renovation Program in Buleleng Regency." The affordable population is the number of people who received housing renovation assistance in the Buleleng Regency in 2013. Based on the 2013 Bali Provincial House Renovation Decree, 1,765 housing units had received assistance from the home renovation program in Buleleng Regency.

From the description above, it is necessary to understand that poverty is a multi-phase, multi-dimensional, and integrated phenomenon. Living in poverty is not only defined as living in conditions of lack of clothing, food & shelter but living in poverty can also be interpreted as low access to various resources and productive assets that are indispensable in order to obtain the means to fulfill the most basic needs of life such as information, transportation, education, health, technology, and Economy

Poverty is always present in every society, be it modern/urban society, even more so in people who are still simple/village. Poverty alleviation efforts have also been carried out in various ways, using a top-down and bottom-up approach. Although the results have not been significant, efforts must be made immediately to reduce poverty. Furthermore, there needs to be cooperation between the government and the community to minimize poverty. Various poverty alleviation programs have been implemented to overcome the phenomenon of poverty. However, inadequate countermeasures have resulted in the phenomenon of poverty will always exist. With this failure, it is necessary to have the right strategy to overcome and reduce the number of poverty in Indonesia so that the ideals of poverty alleviation & equitable development that exist in the 1945 Constitution can be realized.

The results of this study are 1) the perception of poor people who receive assistance with the home renovation program mostly gave positive statements (Agree and Strongly Agree). The rest gave neutral and negative statements (Strongly Disagree and Disagree). 2) There is an improvement in the quality of the houses of the poor after receiving housing renovation assistance. 3) Obstacles faced by local governments in implementing the home renovation program are verification, assessment, socialization, and development. 4) At this point in the home renovation program's implementation, the government is working to overcome some of the weaknesses it faces, such as the preparation of assistant consultants, submission of main actors in the home renovation program, and development of standard standards from prospective beneficiaries [11].

Research "The Role of Social Assistance in Efforts to Alleviate Poverty of Farm Workers' Families in Totokaton Village, Punggur District, Central Lampung Regency." Using the descriptive method. The population of this research consisted of 54 households, all of whom served as respondents. Observation, questioning, and documentation approaches were employed to gather data. Data analysis in this study used a single table. The results showed that: (1) The average income before social assistance was IDR 7,844,733.33 KK/year. (2) The average number of children is two people/KK (3) 81,48% of families use social assistance with an independent work system and 18.52% with a group work system. (4) 83.33% of households used social assistance in the agricultural sector, and 16.67% in non-agricultural households. (5) The average income after using social assistance is IDR 10,835,066.67 KK/year. (6) The fulfillment of the family's minimum basic needs increased by 48.15%, from 0% to 48.15% of fulfilled households. (7) Families removed from poverty increased by 22.22%, from 14.81% in near-poor households increased to 37.04% in households in non-poor conditions (Almost Poor 27.78% and Non-Poor 9.25%) [6].

3. Research Method

The research was carried out from February 2022 to September 2022, with the object of research being the role of poverty assistance in the community. The data collection used the literature review method on 20 relevant articles/research published from 2012 to 2021. The method used in this study was a descriptive analysis method, which describes a research problem

by approaching it based on the criteria for providing social assistance. The sources used are secondary data from literature materials relevant to the article's title and other references [12]. The design used in this study is a literature review, which is a literature search conducted using the Google Scholar, Lipi, Doaj, and Researchgate databases. In the initial stage of the journal article search, 20 articles from 2017 to 2021 using the keyword "role of social assistance in society" were identified, which were identified as relevant to the articles for compilation.

Ten articles are considered relevant and have full criteria according to research needs. This study uses data collection techniques, namely:

- a. Looking for Similarities; the technique of conducting a review by looking for similarities between several kinds of literature and concluding.
- b. Looking for Dissimilarities; a technique of conducting a review by finding differences between several works of literature and concluding.
- c. Giving Views; a technique of conducting a review by making an opinion on the sources read.
- d. Compare; a review technique by combining several sources into a new idea.
- e. Summarize; the technique of doing a review by rewriting the source in a sentence.

The data analysis technique is to verify and conclude the data. After the data is collected at this stage, the activities carried out are to process the overall data of the recipients of social assistance obtained from sources or documents, which are then described in the form of a report before the final decision is written. Meet multiple realities and look for relevant supporting data to strengthen the conclusion. The data analysis carried out by the author in this study is that after the author conducts interviews, the data obtained from the field is so much that the author takes notes in detail to be included in the discussion of the research results. The reduction is made by summarizing all the results of the interviews and then selecting them in detail to be included in the discussion. Then for the presentation of the data, after the writer reduces the data from the interview, the discussion of the research results will be presented in the form of text or narrative. After that, the writer concludes by answering the formulation of the problem formulated from the start.

4. Result and Discussion

4.1 The Social Assistance Through Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

Social assistance (BANSOS) through the Ministry of Social Affairs in the National Economic Recovery Program (PEN) began in March 2020 to target the poor and vulnerable people affected by COVID-19. Based on Presidential Regulation Number 63 of 2017 concerning the Distribution of Non-Cash Social Assistance Article 1, Social Assistance is assistance in the form of money, goods, or services to a person, family, and community who is poor, underprivileged, and vulnerable to social risks. Where Social Risk is an event or event that can cause the potential for social vulnerability to be borne by a person, family, and community as a result of social crises, economic crises, political crises, natural phenomena, and disasters that, if not provided Social Assistance will getting worse and unable to live in normal conditions [1].

The poverty that is described in general can be categorized as semi-absolute poverty. In this case, the community has been able to meet basic needs and have income. However, the current basic needs (food) do not meet proper nutritional standards. In the field of public health and education, it is also categorized as semi-absolute because there are still some families who live

in inadequate homes, and there are also many who drop out of school due to economic limitations.

Chambers said that poverty is an integrated concept that has five dimensions, namely poverty (proper), powerless (powerless), vulnerability to emergencies (state of emergency), dependence (dependence), and isolation both geographically and sociologically. Poverty is not only a lack of money and low-income levels but also many other things such as health levels, low education, unfair treatment in law, vulnerability to the threat of crime, powerlessness to face power, and powerlessness to determine their way of life.

Social assistance focuses on the poor and vulnerable (Bottom 40) with funding from the Government (Non-Contributory System). Social assistance programs in Indonesia provided by the central government include the Family Hope Program (PKH), Basic Food Cards, Smart Indonesia Program, Smart Indonesia College Card Program, National Health Insurance Program Contribution Assistance, and assistance for the elderly and disabled. In 2021, the government will redesign social protection programs, especially social assistance through the Ministry of Social Affairs (Kemensos) so that all Indonesian citizens can access them with the National Social Welfare Integrated Data Update (DTKS). In addition, the government increased the budget ceiling for social protection by IDR 90,870.6 billion (97.9 percent) of the Ministry of Social's budget ceiling to continue priority and strategic activities, especially to support PEN. The policy aims to maintain the level of consumption of the poor and vulnerable poor [1]

Table 1. Regular Social Assistance and Ad-hoc Social Assistance in PEN

Regular Social Assistance 2020	Budget (trillions of rupiah)	Non-Regular Social Assistance/ Social Assistance in PEN 2020	Budget (trillions of rupiah)
PKH for 10 million KPM of IDR 2,400,000	28.71	Jabodetabek Special Assistance 1.3 million families for 1 month IDR 600,000/month	7.1
Basic Food Card 18.8 million KPM @Rp200,000/month	46.34	Assistance outside Jabodetabek, namely Cash Social Assistance (BLT) 9 million families for three months, IDR 600,000 / month	32.84
Smart Indonesia Card / Indonesia Pintar Card (KIP) for College for 200 thousand students for IDR 3,100,000/month	1.3	Prakerja Card	19.98
National Health Insurance Premium Assistance (JKN)	48.8		
State Electricity Company (PLN) The Discount	11.45	Ministry of Manpower salary subsidy assistance	29.81
Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT)	22.78	Wage Subsidy Assistance (BSU) for Honorary Teachers of the Ministry of Education and Culture	2.94
Smart Indonesia Program (PIP)	14.46	Wage Subsidy Assistance (BSU) for Honorary Teachers of the TheMinistry of Religion	1.13
		Ministry of Education and The Culture Internet Quota Subsidy	3.82
		Ministry of Religion Internet Quota Subsidy	0.24

Regular Social Assistance	Budget (trillions of rupiah)	Non-Regular Social Assistance/ Social Assistance in PEN	Budget (trillions of rupiah)
2020		2020	
2021			
PKH for 10 million KPM of IDR 2,400,000	28.7	Cash Social Assistance for 10 million Beneficiary Families (KPM) IDR 300,000/month	12
Basic Food Card 18.8 million KPM. IDR 200,000/ month	45.1	Prakerja Card	20
Indonesia Pintar Card (KIP) Tuition for 1.2 million students	10.1	Internet quota subsidies are 20 GB (Early Age Education), 35 GB (Elementary School to High School), and 50 GB (students)	4.98
JKN Premium Assistance	48.8	Job Loss Guarantee Contribution (JKP)	1.55
State Electricity Company (PLN) Discount	13.5	Anticipated cash assistance and internet quota reserves	25.01
Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLT)	14.4		
Smart Indonesia Program (PIP)	11.1		

Source: DJA Ministry of Finance 2021, processed by researchers [1]

They are entering 2021. The government continues to direct the PEN for handling the COVID-19 pandemic, with the social security program continuing to be carried out, especially for basic needs. As a result, the 2021 PEN budget allocation reaches Rp. 699.4 trillion is divided into 5 clusters with social protection clusters of Rp. 157.4 trillion, among others, used for the Basic Food Card program, PKH, Cash Social Assistance, and Village BLT. The priority output targets of the Ministry of Social Affairs in 2021 include (1) low-income families who receive conditional cash assistance/PKH as many as 10 million KPM. (2) basic food cards of 18.8 million KPM, (3) cash social assistance of 10 million KPM, (4) victims of drug abuse who received rehabilitation and social protection for as many as 20.000, people, and (5) empowerment of 2.500, remote indigenous communities KK [1].

4.2 Social Assistance Distribution in Indonesia

Since the New Order era, the government has been distributing social assistance (BANSOS). The role of social assistance has become increasingly important since the 1997-1998 monetary crisis and various other crises that followed, such as the 2008 economic crisis and the 2020 pandemic. Thanks to social assistance, people can be more resilient in crises and not fall into poverty. They are quoting the National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (2020) that so far, the obstacle that often occurs in social assistance schemes is the inaccuracy of the target recipient of aid. In line with this, inaccurate target recipients were often encountered when distributing aid to the field [14].

Furthermore, it stated that various types of social assistance provided by the Central Government and the confusing administrative flow of distributing social assistance resulted in chaos, such as confusion of information regarding access to social assistance receipts circulating in the community [4]. Not only that, the classification that is not by the target and the time for the distribution of social assistance that is not simultaneous are problems that do not end. The ongoing social assistance has also not embraced community groups that, before the pandemic,

included the wealthy, but during a pandemic, they had to lose their income and jobs to the National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction, 2020.

The Minister of Finance 2020 emphasized that four sectors have been most shaken by the Covid-19 pandemic: the household sector, casual employees, MSMEs, and companies or business entities. Of these sectors, employees are the most sensitive to losing their income. The government has several policies to protect the people's Economy through the National Economic Recovery (PEN), the program for handling the Covid-19 pandemic [15]. However, do not just focus on providing groceries. Together with the Ministry of Finance, the central government has created some JPS or Social Safety schemes [16].

Sourced from the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), the central government has deployed various forms and types of social assistance policies to save the community's economic resilience in the face of the current pandemic, including (1) Family Hope Program (PKH), (2) Cash Social Assistance, (3) Direct Village Fund Cash Assistance (BLT Dana Desa), (4) Basic Social Assistance (BSS) for the Jakarta Bogor Depok Tangerang and Bekasi (JABODETABEK) areas, (5) Pre-employment cards/Prakerja Card, (6) basic food cards /Semabko Card, and (7) Electricity subsidies. An overview of the Central Government's JPS policy in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Family of Hope Program

The Family Hope Program (PKH) social assistance is one of the JPS for underprivileged families. The purpose of PKH is to strengthen purchasing power and improve nutrition and nutrition and the immune system of children, pregnant women, severe disabilities, and the elderly. In addition, it is also to increase public consumption and maintain the income and expenditure of pre-prosperous families to avoid social risks during the Covid-19 pandemic [17].

2. Social Assistance Cash (BST)

The government has distributed social Assistance Cash (BST) since the early detection of the spread of Covid-19 in Indonesia. However, BST differs from other policies by targeting nine million underprivileged people in 33 provinces other than the Jabodetabek area, both of which have or have not registered the Integrated Social Welfare Data (DTKS). Therefore, BST recipients were people who did not receive PKH assistance and were deemed worthy of assistance [18].

3. Pre-Employment Card / Prakerja Card

The pre-employment card is a capability-building program aimed at job seekers or workers who have experienced termination of employment (PHK) and workers or laborers who need to improve their skills [19]. To join the Pre-Employment Card program, one must pass through the online registration process, interest and aptitude tests, and batch selection based on a place of residence. After completing the training, participants receive incentives distributed using an e-wallet or bank account previously registered [20]. Each pre-employment participant gets total assistance from IDR. 3,550,000,00. This nominal is for study vouchers worth IDR 1,000,000.00, completion of lessons of IDR 600,000.00 per month for four months, and job surveys totaling IDR 150,000.00. [21].

Although the government has attempted to simplify requirements by mandating online training, prospective participants may not be comfortable with the platform. Types of hard-skill training, such as sewing, weaving, cooking, and others, are challenging because of the need to buy tools and materials. The problems did not stop there. On the other hand, some

pre-employment card participants complained about promised incentives because they had not been disbursed even though the participants had completed training. Complaints arise from a technical point of view regarding the license, which is still not attached to the participant account dashboard page [22].

4. Grocery Card / Sembako Card

Sembako Card is a government policy through the Ministry of Social Affairs with its last name, Non-Cash Food Assistance or BPNT. Food cards are given to underprivileged families vulnerable to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and are registered in the Social Welfare Integrated Data in the Ministry of Social Affairs, 2020. The Chairman of the Management Team for the Distribution of Non-cash Social Assistance stated that the Basic Food Program was implemented in all regions in Indonesia, including areas with weaknesses in infrastructure, telecommunication constraints, and geographical access. Of course, special treatment is needed to distribute necessities in areas with access constraints.

The Social Service Center explained that the distribution of basic food program funds uses an electronic money mechanism with a payment aid in the form of a Prosperous Family Card (KKS). Funds on the basic food card cannot be withdrawn in cash and can only be used to purchase commodities for consumer goods stipulated in the basic food program at the Electronic Gotong Royong (e-Warong) Stalls. Currently, there are various variants of food commodities that the community can spend. Previously, people could only shop for necessities like rice or eggs. Now, people have many choices to spend on foodstuffs such as carbohydrates (cassava, corn, sweet potatoes, sago, and other tubers) and animal protein (chicken meat, red meat, fish), vegetable protein (tofu, trivial, and also nuts), and mineral vitamins such as vegetables and fruits [23].

5. Electricity Subsidy

24 million 450 VA consumers are excused from paying energy bills, and seven million 900 VA customers get a 50 % discount as the government focuses on protecting the poorer segments of society despite the rapid growth of the Covid-19 epidemic. The subsidy is distributed over nine months, from April to December 2020, in data from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources 2020. The National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K) revealed that 50% of the beneficiaries of the electricity subsidy are household customers belonging to the wealthy class.

Even sad is that only 26% of the underprivileged and vulnerable people in the bottom 40% of the Economy receive electricity subsidies. In addition, another problem that occurs in the type of electricity subsidy is the number of people who fail to use this subsidy due to an error when entering the Customer ID format listed on the meter. The lack of socialization regarding how to register and use it impacts the ineffectiveness of electricity subsidy assistance [24].

4.3. The Role of Social Assistance in Society

Social assistance spending has a very important role in improving people's welfare. Social assistance is expenditure directed at helping the purchasing power of the poor and vulnerable to fulfill their basic needs in terms of food, health, education, and other basic services. In addition, social assistance is also directed at protecting the community from social risks and increasing its economic capacity. Social assistance becomes interesting because many parties are in need, especially the poor.

Therefore, society needs it for social and welfare purposes. Furthermore, social assistance is assistance in the form of money or goods such as rice for the poor, house repairs, direct cash assistance (BLT), health cards, and natural disaster assistance. Therefore, social assistance has a contribution that will be given to humans in the form of a positive impact.

- a. Providing Social Protection; The provision of social protection aims to prevent and deal with the risks of shocks and social vulnerabilities of a person, family, or community group so that minimum basic needs can fulfill their survival. In this study, the provision of social protection for the recipients of social assistance through a house renovation program for people whose houses or residences are in decent condition and need to be renovated.
- b. Providing Social Empowerment; The provision of social empowerment aims to give a person or group of people who experience social problems the power to meet their basic needs.
- c. Providing Social Security; The purpose of providing social security is to ensure that beneficiaries can meet their basic needs for a decent life. In this study, the provision of social security is given to people who receive social assistance in the form of medical assistance for free.
- d. Providing Economic Strengthening; Social assistance from the government plays a big part in improving the community's Economy. For example, small businesses can get customers back because people's purchasing power is starting to return to normal, people get more money from the government, people can meet their daily needs with money from the government, and people have enough business capital-the increase for micro sellers such as fried food sellers.
- e. Providing Educational Assistance; The role of social assistance in the aspect of children's education for households receiving social assistance from the results of the study shows that the provision of social assistance to the community greatly helps the education costs of informants' children, changing behavior, and ways of thinking that do not support the improvement of welfare in the education aspect.

The results showed that the recipients of Social Assistance in education often misused the assistance of basic needs and parents' lack of enthusiasm in sending their children to school. The author believes that social assistance's role is very important because people want to be empowered, but there are limited funds. So this social assistance helps people who need it. Based on the description above, social assistance to the community has a positive role.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Conclusion

The essence of social assistance (BANSOS) is no longer just assistance. More than that, social assistance is also social protection. Social assistance includes ways to reduce the burden of expenses and increase income, thereby encouraging low-income families to be more productive. The use of social assistance should be optimized in terms of more productive activities, such as in the field of entrepreneurship programs. In addition, the assistance provided to meet the needs of underprivileged families can be used as an effort to empower the Economy. So it is not just spent on the market.

However, it is hoped that social assistance can produce itself to meet daily needs in order to solve extreme poverty. Therefore, social assistance should no longer be treated as assistance, but as an intervention program as part of empowerment for the poor and vulnerable, especially

in a pandemic situation. Suggestions from researchers are the first to accelerate the updating of DTKS so that the targeting of social assistance follows the focus on people with the lowest 40 % income in national economic recovery and minimizing exclusion and inclusion errors in even temporary programs. Then the second is a more comprehensive mechanism for monitoring social assistance so that corruption and other inefficiencies do not occur again that hinder the program's optimal impact.

5.2 Suggestion

Social control mechanisms through the community's active role in overseeing the distribution of government social assistance are needed to optimize the benefits of social assistance. The active role of the community in question is by taking the initiative to carry out self-registration aimed at self-reporting through the assistance of the smallest government units such as Rukun Tetangga (RT), Rukun Warga (RW), Camat, Lurah, and other devices so that Integrated Social Welfare Data (DTKS) can be obtained and validated faster. In addition, massive and detailed socialization by the government regarding the procedure for distributing social assistance is needed to provide understanding to the beneficiary community.

The use of technology and information also plays an important role in distributing social assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic. Rapid digital transformation must be used optimally when distributing social assistance to the community. Digitization of social assistance data that is integrated with the banking system needs to be implemented to minimize gaps in corruption, gratification, and illegal levies in all schemes and units of government social assistance distribution. Social assistance received directly by the community is expected to increase people's purchasing power and consumption so that it can encourage national economic recovery.

Social assistance intends to protect and improve the welfare of people. Although social assistance is not the main idea in overcoming social and economic problems during this pandemic, living together by prioritizing actions of mutual care, sharing, tolerance, and mutual assistance are the main factors to achieving social welfare for the community.

5.3 Recommendation

In order for the social assistance policy to have a more optimal impact on the goals of national economic recovery, especially during the national economic recovery period, the government needs to pay attention to the following:

1. It is encouraging a social safety net program that can function as an automatic stabilizer component of stimulus policies which will automatically apply if there is a significant economic turmoil as a trigger. The social safety net designed to work automatically fulfills three criteria for the effectiveness of the fiscal stimulus, namely timely (on time because it can be implemented immediately, without any time lag); targeted (targeting the poor and vulnerable groups so that it has a direct impact on consumption, hand to mouth); and temporary (applicable temporarily because it will be completed along with the recovery of the Economy).
2. The transformation mechanism for the 3 Kg LPG subsidy and the household electricity subsidy must apply two main concepts. Namely, the commodity price of 3 Kg LPG cylinders and household electricity tariffs must be adjusted to the economical price (getting the price right) and protect the poor and vulnerable (protect the poor). By implementing targeted subsidies through non-cash direct assistance mechanisms.

3. Accelerate the updating of DTKS so that the targeting of social assistance follows the focus on the people with the lowest 40 percent income in national economic recovery and minimize exclusion and inclusion errors in even temporary programs.
4. A more comprehensive social assistance monitoring mechanism prevents corruption and other inefficiencies from preventing the program from having an optimal impact.

Limitations

This research only uses books and other literature as the main object of research. In addition, the available data documentation is limited to some news triangulated with several other secondary sources. For further research, it is recommended to conduct surveys and direct interviews with the object of research, namely the social assistance beneficiaries. It aims to obtain more in-depth information and produce data that provides a better representation of the effectiveness of the distribution of government social assistance.

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