

Community Movement in Dealing with Covid-19: Case Study of Indonesia

Sudharto P. Hadi¹, Mohd. Hairry Ibrahim², Bulan Prabawani³, Sri Suryoko⁴
{sudhartophadi@yahoo.co.id¹}

Universitas Diponegoro, Indonesia^{1,3,4}
Universitas Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Perak Malaysia²

Abstract. This paper explored the government and community initiatives in dealing with Covid-19 using a case study because Pandemic Covid-19 has affected all aspects of human beings including Indonesia. The government has taken many actions including large-scale social restriction, physical and social distancing, social assistance, cash direct assistant, and training for pre-work. There are also community initiatives such as *lumbung pangan* (food barns), *jemuran berkah* (blessing clothesline), *bilik disinfektan* (disinfectant booth). But, this paper also found that people are treated as objects because the government applied a top-down approach while community initiatives helped people alleviate the burden due to loss of job and loss of income and mitigate the spread of Covid-19. Covid-19 is a communicable disease and the effective way to deal with is by community approach treating people as subjects. People must be aware that they must be in the front-liner in dealing with Covid-19. Wearing a mask, hand washing, and keep distancing with others must be done by everyone and everywhere. In addition, people and neighborhood associations (RT and RW) as the lowest unit of government structure must be utilized as a link to delivering government program, and monitoring program.

Keywords: Covid-19, Government, Community Measures, Community Initiative

1 Introduction

Pandemic Covid-19 started infecting globally since the end of December [1]. Indonesian government officially declared that Pandemic Covid-19 has been contacted this country when two persons were stated infected on March 2, 2020. Many measures taken by the government such as large social restriction (PSSB) [2], physical and social distancing, social assistance, cash direct assistant and training for pre-work [3]. Initially, the policies were oriented more toward health and live of people. However, this policies because economy the slowdown. [4]. The government then promote a policy called “secured and productive” in which health and economy must be dealt simultaneously. Given this, since March 23, the new normal policy was introduced. According to President Jokowi, we need to live peacefully with corona, doing daily activities by clean and healthy lives: wearing mask, hand washing and keep distancing. However, since new normal was launched, the number of people infected Covid-19 increase significantly. The average infected people per day reach to 1500 person

2 Literature Review

Pandemic Covid-19 is non-natural global disaster come suddenly and silently, and spread very fast. No country in the world has experience dealing with such pandemic. Many policies and actions taken by many government including Indonesia mostly are top down in character. Top down policy or command and control requires the ability to detect the violation, fast and quick response and adequate sanction to make deterrent effect, but with limited resources, this policy could not be effective. Luckily, social cohesion of Indonesia society is relatively tied. During the pandemic, the spirit of mutual assistant, help each other reflect in variety of forms such as lumbung pangan (food barns), jemuran berkah (blessing clothesline), jogo tonggo (look after neighbors). These community initiative (CI is categorized as voluntary approach [11].

Community initiative (CI) is a community capacity development that is useful for identifying priorities and opportunities and for encouraging and sustaining positive environmental change. CI is part of community capacity, which includes interaction between human resources, organizational resources, and social capital in a particular community that can be used to solve collective problems and improve or maintain the welfare of certain communities. [5]

CI commonly involves the community in relation to social issues such as urban challenge and rural development in the EU [3][10], poverty [5], public health and quality of life in Massachusetts [6], New York [7], and South Carolina to Kansas [8] also 12 countries in the US [8]. Through CI, various community problems can be resolved relatively well. CI's success is inseparable from the existence of partnerships [7], innovation [9], leadership [9][5] and effective leading [7], and the local environment [7] which are the key elements in CI.

Previous research related to CI used a case study approach, considering that solving community problems requires collaboration between parties, not just community initiation that appears emergently [8][4][3]. However, other approaches can also be used such as the survey [8] because it involves quantitative data to describe the types of CI activities, as well as asset mapping [7] to define the strengths that the community has to catalyze community change. The various approaches used have proven to be able to solve social problems..

3 Methodology

This research applied a case study involving secondary data which were collected from mass media. The media included daily and weekly news and web data. The use of several mass media is useful as cross-validation. The government releases were obtained from national television. The community initiatives included local communities, companies, also individual-based initiatives to reduce the burden of Covid-19. The data were collected since the beginning of Pandemic Covid-19, February 2020 to September 2020. The data were analyzed descriptively using explanation building in order to explain community initiatives in facing Pandemic Covid-19.

4 Result and Discussion

Many people consider new normal as a normal condition in which people are allowed to do everything without following the health procedure. In fact, in many public spaces such as traditional market, terminal, airport, public transportation, and shopping mall many people do not wear mask and not even avoid crowded [9]. Many local governments enforce this stipulation by imposing variety of sanction such as a fine from US\$3.5 to US\$17.2 doing cleaning at the yard of police office, doing push up or confiscate their identity card. It seems that, the approach taken by government is top down approach and command and control (CAC). CAC relies on the ability of the government to detect who violate the law, the quick and fast response and adequate sanction. The limitation of resources making this approach is not efficient.

At the meantime, there are many measures taken by community in dealing with Covid-19 at the stage of prevention, mitigation, disaster preparedness, emergency response and rehabilitation. CI is more often applied through the well-specified intervention model [5], but in relation to the handling of Covid-19 in Indonesia, CI is formed incidentally and quickly considering that the handling of this pandemic requires initiation from various parties quickly, communally, and collaboration between parties is essential.

In dealing with emergency response there is initiative called blessing clothesline or locally called jemuran berkah to help those economically severely affected by Covid-19. For those who are economically sufficient could contribute by putting sembako (nine basic need), rice and other daily needs. For those who categorized as needy could take everything available at clothesline to reduce their burden. The blessing clothesline has been replicated by Universities and various groups of people across the countries. Other community initiatives include utilizing home yard for planting vegetable and fruits to fulfil daily need. Local people in Bali who rely on tourist visit are economically severely affected. They initiated to make traditional weaving craft sold abroad through online. Another community initiative come from River Care group in Klaten where during the pandemic they create park river to be planted with various vegetable and fruits. People also could harvest fish from river they maintain regularly.

At the phases of prevention and mitigation, people initiated making disinfectant booth at the entrance gate of their village. Visitors are obliged to be screened through disinfectant booth before entering the village. Disinfectant booth has been replicated at many places such as government offices, private company offices etc.

During rehabilitation phase, local people living near by PT PJB (Jawa Bali Power) in Paiton East Java with the support of the company initiated to utilize traditional leaves called kelor to be processed to be herbal drink for strengthening immunity. The herbal drink is sold to PJB workers and the public through online.

5 Conclusion and Recommendations

Community movement in the midst of pandemic help affected people alleviating their burden and also improving their immunity. In addition, community initiative also helps people mitigate and prevent from being infected by Pandemic Covid-19. An initiative which has not been introduced is the one related to nurturing people's awareness to do self-managing. Pandemic Covid-19 is communicable disease which can be effectively dealt with community

action placing people as subject. People must be aware that they have to be in a front-line dealing with Covid-19. Wearing mask, hand washing and keep distancing is a need and should be as a people's way of life not because of sanction. People also are not reluctant to warn others if they do not follow healthy life pattern. This is called a voluntary approach as opposed to command and control as being practice and imposed by the government. An example of self-managing community is people living in the village of Karama, Bulukumba regency, South Sulawesi. Wearing mask, hand washing and keep distancing is a way of life without any sanction. Every household provides hand sanitizer in front of his/ her house to facilitate visitors. They also provide disinfectant booth at village gate entrance. Village office is equipped with health protocol and every visitor is obliged to follow the procedure such as keep distancing, wash their hand, check body temperature with thermos-gun.

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