

Strategy for Strengthening Social Safety Nets for the People of Pangkalpinang City in the Covid-19 Pandemic Era

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify and analyze strategies for strengthening social safety nets for the people of Pangkalpinang City in the Covid-19 Pandemic Era. Pangkalpinang City is an area with a fairly dense population. With a population of 218,569 people. Meanwhile, the number of poor people in 2020 is 9.40 thousand people. With a fairly large number of poor people and the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pangkalpinang City Government must be prepared to face various threats that endanger the national economy, especially the economy of the people of Pangkalpinang City. One of the strategies issued by the Government is through the Social Safety Net which aims to maintain people's purchasing power which is manifested in the form of social assistance. The social safety net provided by the Government for the community consists of 2 (two) types, namely cash deposit assistance (BST) and basic food programs (non-cash). The basic food program is the provision of social assistance to poor and vulnerable families to reduce the burden of meeting food needs. Meanwhile, cash deposit assistance is social assistance provided in the form of cash, which is disbursed through the post office. The recipients of this social assistance are people who are registered as poor people. The amount of social assistance received by the community is Rp. 600,000 for 3 months and Rp. 200,000. people who receive social assistance can only choose one program. The data collection technique was carried out using the literature review method. Meanwhile, the data analysis technique is carried out with the stages of collecting, reducing, displaying and drawing conclusions.

Keywords: Strengthening strategy, social safety net, and poor community

Introduction

Hundreds of civilizations have risen and fallen throughout human history. In the end, the population declines due to war, famine, or disease and society loses some of the political, social, economic, and cultural complexities it developed during its heyday (Diamond, 2014). The global COVID-19 pandemic has made the world giddy, regardless of the level of progress in a country's political, technological, economic, or health management governance. The current situation has forced many countries to make tactical policies in the face of a global pandemic with a variety of models that create pros and cons. History teaches us that the COVID-19 pandemic was not the first pandemic in the world. Pandemics in the history of human civilization can be seen in the history of the Middle Ages in the years 1347-1351, when the bubonic plague (black death) pandemic hit Eurasia, killing 30-50 percent of the European population (Dasgupta & Crunkhorn, 2020).

Several countries were caught in an attempt to deny the attack from the COVID-19 virus, including Indonesia. The state's indecision in responding to the global situation gave rise to various polemics during society, including the government itself, which led to debates. This situation then made some people take initiatives or tactical steps in an effort to overcome, prevent the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak. The government's indecision in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic is

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confirmed by regulations in various sectors, including the ban on going home, even causing debate in the public sphere about the difference between going home, social distancing, physical distancing, large-scale social restrictions (PSBB), credit restructuring and MSMEs, social assistance policy, lastly on the relaxation of transportation mode policies. Unexpectedly, some regulations confuse the public, in the sense that the government's uncertainty and confusion also resonate with the policies chosen or taken by local governments (Pujowati & Sufaidi, 2021).

The policy of imposing restrictions on community activities (PPKM) is to anticipate the surge in the number of cases of Covid-19 sufferers. However, this policy is like a double-edged sword, because there are conflicting health and economic interests. It is a common question whether the health factor is the main thing or is it an economic factor. Pangkalpinang City is an area with the implementation of PPKM level 4, for this reason, in this paper, we will look at the identification of strategies used in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in health threats and poverty.

Social Vulnerability as a result of Covid-19

The latest data from 224 countries in the world recorded a total of 216,867,420 cases globally with a death toll of 4,507,837. Meanwhile, for Indonesia, the number of cases is 4,089,801 with the number of recoveries 3,760,497, the number of deaths is 133,023 cases. (www.covid19.go.id). This situation is a threat in terms of death and social vulnerability. The availability of health infrastructure and human resources is a serious problem in our indecision in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic. This condition also creates an uncertain situation in the economic aspect in the form of social vulnerability. A Covid-19 pandemic is a form of danger that has the potential to threaten all forms of people's lives, such as the estrangement of social relations where there are various stigmas against Covid sufferers, threats to health, job losses, and several businesses experiencing bankruptcy which lead to poverty, and psychological aspects (Khan et al., 2020).

The condition of social vulnerability is a reality that must be addressed immediately because it creates a panic for the community (Supriatna et al., 2020). This condition is caused by the position of community resilience which has experienced shocks due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, it is undeniable that social vulnerabilities have several impacts on people's lives, in the form of: First, apathy, we can see an attitude of neglect or indifference from some people to follow health protocols and rejection of programs, vaccinations, and neglect of homecoming ban instructions.

This community action is sociologically not wrong, because it is a response to social resilience to the situation experienced. Second, irrational actions, in the form of believing in a drug or technique to prevent or cure COVID-19 which have not been proven to be valid. In addition to these conditions, during the pandemic, panic buying also appeared, in the form of buying food or drinks that are believed to be able to prevent COVID-19, increasing online loans with high-interest rates, divorce cases, and suicide as one of the increasing phenomena during the pandemic. Third, during the pandemic, criminal acts also increased, such as theft and stockpiling of hand sanitizers, masks, and medicines needed by the community related to the prevention and treatment of Covid-19. (<https://kolom.tempo.co/read/1326074/covid-19-kerentanan-social-dan-gagalnya-physical-distancing>). This condition of social vulnerability leads to the reduced social welfare of the community during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Identification and strategy for handling the covid-19 pandemic in Pangkalpinang

In the current pandemic era, the governor of Babylon has a vision of a prosperous Babylon, while his mission consists of 6 types of which there are 4 related missions in the social service, namely first, increasing regional potential-based economic development, second; improve superior and reliable human resources, third; realizing good governance and democratic development, fourth; disaster control and environmental quality. Various impacts have been felt by various groups, both the government and the community due to the 19 pandemics, including the high pov-

erty rate. In the context of Pangkalpinang itself, the poverty rate is based on quotas, not data. Poverty data collection is done through deliberation, but the data that emerges is still based on old data, so various parties experience difficulties in policy execution. Poverty is a common problem that will have an impact on development. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an increase in the number of new unemployed which leads to poverty due to declining income.

The social service has various programs including the family of hope program which is implemented in the city/regency which aims to prosper for the good of the community. In this program, various obstacles were found, such as injustice in determining the object of the determination of the family of hope program. In addition to the family of hope program, in every village, there have been various types of assistance provided in the form of the family of hope program (PKH) is a form of implementation of the social safety net policy. Social assistance provided in various regions can be in the form of necessities (non-cash) and the provision of direct cash assistance (BLT) worth 300,000/month (<https://klikbabel.com/2020/07/08/dinas-social-pangkalpinang-hadikan-dua-tipe-program-bansos>).

The purpose of this assistance is to reduce poverty. During the implementation of the implemented programs, there were various obstacles and problems in implementing the social safety net policy, such as rising food prices, inaccurate data on prospective recipients (KPM). Efforts to overcome the pandemic in 2021 in Pangkalpinang by implementing an integrated isolation program (isoter) intended for COVID-19 patients and residents with Bangka Belitung ID cards. The isoter in question applies to COVID-19 patients who have mild symptoms such as flu, cough, which are following the criteria required by the government for recipients. The Bangka Belitung government has also implemented a program to find orphans to be adopted as foster children, in this case, their parents are victims who died due to the covid 19 case. All these things are done as much as possible to reduce the burden on the community in dealing with covid 19.

The social safety net is the responsibility of the state to protect groups of people/families who have chronically decreased capacity which can lead to job loss. From 2020 until now there have been efforts in social safety nets in the form of providing necessities, direct cash assistance, employee subsidies, social assistance. An empowering approach must also be able to accommodate the community to be independent by various parties to avoid excessive interdependence. The triple helix relation mechanism, which prioritizes relations between the state, universities, and companies, needs to be implemented. Monitoring and evaluation are important to be carried out by involving universities that have a lot of human resources to help fight COVID-19 as well as collaboration with companies.

Material and Methods

This research took place in Pangkalpinang City. The selection of this location was based on the social conditions of the local community and a large number of poor people and communities receiving social assistance. This research will use a descriptive qualitative research method. Descriptive qualitative research here aims to describe social conditions by using descriptive data. This research uses the emphasis of postpositivism philosophy. Data from the field were analyzed to obtain in-depth information. The object of this research is the poor who receive social assistance. The types of data in the study are:

Primary

Primary data is the main data that will be used to analyze the discussion. Early primary data were obtained from in-depth interviews with informants and also from observations.

Secondary

Secondary data is supporting data used to strengthen or support the analysis process. Secondary data here is obtained from the results of documentation from various sources that are considered relevant.

Data collection techniques are carried out by using several ways including.

Observation

Observation is a way of collecting data by making direct observations to locations by utilizing the senses. Observations that will be carried out in this study are non-participatory. Researchers as observers make observations of phenomena that occur in the field and record them as material or data for analysis.

Results and Discussion

In the current pandemic era, the governor of Babylon has a vision of a prosperous Babylon. Meanwhile, the mission consists of 6 types of which there are 4 related missions in the social service, namely 1 (increasing regional potential-based economic development), 3 (Improving superior and reliable human resources), 5 (realizing good governance and democratic development), and 6 (disaster control and environmental quality). He said the total number of social service employees was 250 people. Many impacts have been felt by various groups, both the government and the community due to the 19 pandemics. One of them is the high poverty rate where facts are found in the field related to the increase in poverty. In Indonesia, poverty rates are collected based on quotas, not data. In this case, even though the data collection has gone through deliberation, what comes out is old data so that various parties experience difficulties and make poverty a common problem that will hinder development. In this case, updating data from time to time is very important because it has an impact on the selection of recipient targets to cope with COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an increase in the number of new unemployed which leads to poverty due to declining income. He also revealed that the entire community must work together to fight Covid by carrying out the policies that have been established, such as the implementation of the health protocol.

The social service has various programs including the family of hope program which is implemented in the city/regency which aims to prosper for the good of the community. In this program, various obstacles were found, such as injustice in determining the object of the determination of the family of hope program. In addition to the family of hope program, he also said that in every village there were already various types of assistance provided (PKH) in the implementation of the social safety net policy. Social assistance provided in various areas can be in the form of necessities and the application of BLT (300,000/month). The purpose of this assistance is to reduce poverty. In carrying out the implemented programs, there are various obstacles and problems in implementing social safety net policies such as rising food prices, inaccurate data on prospective recipients (KPM), and so on. He said that in 2021 there will be an isoter program (integrated isolation) that is intended for COVID-19 patients and has a Babylonian ID card. The isoter in question applies to COVID-19 patients who have mild symptoms such as flu, cough, which are following the criteria required by the government for recipients. The Governor is also now implementing a program to search for orphans to be adopted as foster children, in which in this case the parents are victims who died due to the COVID-19 case. So that getting a social safety net is an interest in carrying out life during a pandemic

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In the sociological aspect, the state must play a role in minimizing the impact of social vulnerability where the state has control and access to make public and social policies for the welfare of the community. In the context of social protection, there is a social safety net which is a collaboration that has developed in various countries such as the UK. Britain runs this social safety net to protect workers which have succeeded in inspiring other countries including Indonesia from the era of President Soekarno. In this pandemic period, a social safety net is needed because the state and its political triad must protect each other from various threats, one of which must be able to resolve social vulnerabilities in society. From 2020 until now there have been efforts in social safety nets in the form of providing necessities, cash BLT, employee subsidies, social assistance, etc. This social safety net is also the responsibility of the state to protect groups of people/families who have chronically decreased capacity that can lose their jobs.

Conclusion

In Indonesia, poverty rates are collected based on quotas, not data. In this case, even though the data collection has gone through deliberation, what comes out is old data so that various parties experience difficulties and make poverty a common problem that will hinder development. In this case, updating data from time to time is very important because it has an impact on the selection of recipient targets to cope with COVID-19.

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