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## **LACK OF SYNERGY BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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### **Abstract**

*This article discusses the government's and society's unpreparedness in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. To overcome various limitations and challenges in handling the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia, it is necessary to realize cooperation by mobilizing all national resources and potential. The synergy between governments is also needed so that there are no overlapping regulations. The government's strictness in making rules and sanctions greatly influences handling the Covid-19 pandemic. The community is also asked to obey and believe in every policy made. So far, people have tended to ignore existing policies so that the spread of Covid-19 has become more massive and uncontrollable. Cooperation between government and society is needed in the current crisis conditions.*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Indonesia is one of the largest archipelagic countries in the world, and its inhabitants occupy several areas with a sociocultural life that is different from other regions (Kristiyanti, 2016). Following the precepts contained in Pancasila, each separate region still has the right to obtain security and safety from threats of war, non-war, or the consequences of natural disasters.

Indonesia has many volcanoes located on the Indo-Australian, Asian, and Pacific plates, and the destruction of nature by a group of people makes Indonesia prone to natural disasters (Rahmat et al., 2021). The management of resources that has been carried out has not yet contributed to community welfare and disaster management, so the assistance provided still relies on the central government, the private sector, and foreigners (Patton et al., 2021).

In mid-2019, the world was shocked by the emergence of a new virus that spread from Wuhan, where China gave an official report to WHO that there was a coronavirus on December 31, 2019. However, there was a debate that Harvard University said residents in

Wuhan had been infected since August 2019 after analyzing Satellite photos of traffic at a hospital in the Wuhan area (Haryanti et al., 2021).

The Indonesian people have experienced and history of disease outbreaks such as influenza, cholera, and plague (Setiawan & Pratiwi, 2022). Covid-19 is a disease that has never been identified in the human body, originating from the Sars-CoV-2 virus. Until now, two types of coronaviruses can cause severe symptoms if exposed, such as Severe SARS and Mers (Yuzar, 2020).

To increase efforts and deal with Covid-19, which eventually entered Indonesia, there needs to be concern and cooperation for each of the existing elements. This concern and cooperation do not only focus on the government, but support for political policies is very influential. Actions taken by the government can strengthen or even weaken these countermeasures.

They are increasing civil-military cooperation to strengthen security and defense in the form of defense against the Covid-19 pandemic. Countries with optimal civilian-military patterns or conditions have an advantage in terms of security. Civil-military cooperation in handling Covid-19, the role of the TNI has been regulated in Law Number 3 of 2002, which states that the TNI is also tasked with carrying out military operations other than war (Nugroho, 2022). Military operations other than war include humanitarian assistance, assistance to the civilian government, SAR assistance, shipping and flight security, and handling the Covid-19 outbreak.

To overcome various limitations and challenges in the implementation of handling the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia, it is necessary to realize cooperation by mobilizing all national resources and potential (NEGARA, n.d.). The resources involved include human resources, logistics, and communications. Meanwhile, the national potential needed to handle Covid-19 comes from the government and the private sector. Realization of civil-military cooperation in overcoming the Covid-19 pandemic by building a fundamental and comprehensive role so that it is expected to be more effective.

Civil-military cooperation in handling Covid-19 is urgently needed to develop procedures and warnings that are easily understood by people who live in disaster-prone areas and areas affected by disasters. Warning systems and procedures that can be relied upon for efficiency and effectiveness will be difficult to materialize if there is no cooperation between relevant stakeholders.

So, based on the background above, the authors produced problems in this study, namely the lack of strong and synergistic regulations regarding the national health system; the unpreparedness of the national health system in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic situation; unpreparedness, lack of awareness, and non-compliance of the community in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic situation; lack of coordination between related sectors.

## **METHOD RESEARCH**

This study used qualitative research methods. This method was chosen because the purpose of qualitative research is to find out the phenomena of the subjects used as research material utilizing descriptions using words or language that utilize natural methods. To achieve the research objectives, several theories are used to support existing problem-solving the theory used in this study, namely:

### **Social Construction Theory "Berger"**

Berger believes the relationship between structure and agency is a debate. In a continuous rotation, the pattern starts from society, forming individuals and vice versa, and individuals form a society where the dynamics occur continuously. According to Berger,

externalization – objectivity – internalization is a component that forms social construction (Pratama, 2022).

### **The "Mead" Symbol Interactionism Theory**

The Theoretical Perspective is the thought of George Herbert Mead which is closely attached to the history of the formation of the Theory of Symbolic Interactionism (Haris & Amalia, 2018). Mead argues that a form of verbal and non-verbal gesture is a symbol of an agreement made by all parties and has a very important meaning. Giving symbols to other people can influence other people's behavior and vice versa. Thoughts, feelings, intentions, and goals can be given with gestures in the form of symbols that are in accordance with the three basic symbolic interactions: mind, self, and society.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **a. Lack Of Regulatory Synergy in The National Health System**

Covid-19 in Indonesia was detected early March 2020 (Gitiyarko, 2021). After two people were positively infected with the Covid-19 virus, the increase in positive cases in Indonesia was getting faster. In just one month, more than 1,500 patients have tested positive for Covid-19. The increase has forced the government to act quickly, precisely, and responsibly to inhibit the spread of Covid-19. However, the government has been slow to act and seems to be trivializing the problem of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The ignorance and clarity obtained during the Covid-19 pandemic made elements of society and the government blame one another. This mistake ultimately made the policies or regulations that were made still ineffective, which ultimately had an impact on the spread of the pandemic rapidly. Getting out of the crisis involves good coordination and mutual trust between the community and the government. The absence of the community in making policies makes some policies made by the government seem to have inequality where not all levels of society can follow the policies made so that the gaps that form in society are increasingly visible.

Policy inconsistencies made by the government have occurred in Permenkes and Permenhub. An example is in cases involving online transportation. The Minister of Health prohibits online transportation to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Meanwhile, Permenhub allows online transportation to keep the economy running. The lack of synergy in the regulations made by the government is exacerbated by errors in conveying information to the public (Mas'udi, Wawan & Winanti, 2020), which makes the community confused in implementing the regulations that have been made.

### **b. The Unpreparedness of Indonesia's National Health System In Dealing With The Covid-19 Pandemic**

DKI Jakarta is the epicenter of the spread of the Covid-19 virus in Indonesia. However, facilities and infrastructure and resources are still very limited. For example, if patients need special equipment or rooms related to the symptoms they are experiencing, they cannot be made available to people who need them. In addition, the number of health workers in Indonesia is still relatively low. According to the data, four doctors must serve 10,000 residents, which is a very low number compared to ASEAN countries. Then for nurse data, two nurses must serve 1000 residents.

In addition to the problem of the availability of health workers, there is another issue that is also very important, namely, related to PPE in the form of masks or hazmat clothing. IDI had said that medical staff had threatened not to treat Covid-19 patients if requests for personal protective equipment were not granted.

The lack of personal protective equipment is because the institutions related to the

handling of Covid-19 have not worked together in the sense that there is still a lack of communication and coordination. Because of this mistake, many health workers died. The Indonesian Doctors Association also said that health workers who died were due to a lack of PPE, which caused medical workers to also be exposed to the Covid-19 virus. The medical staff even replaced PPE with plastic raincoats due to the unavailability of PPE. The government's unpreparedness has caused huge losses because many medical workers have lost much needed during a pandemic crisis like this. Due to the poor handling of Covid-19, its spread has become massive and uncontrollable (Gedoan, 2020). If agencies have good coordination and communication, the handling of Covid-19 will run smoothly.

**c. People's Mentality and Attitude When Facing the Covid-19 Pandemic**

Citizen non-compliance with regulations and instructions given by the government is one of the problems that cause the spread of Covid-19 to become massive. Residents still gather or go to places that are already prohibited. The government has tried to make regulations to reduce the rate of spread of Covid-19 utilizing social distancing because one of the ways to spread Covid-19 is by splashing saliva. If you do not keep your distance according to what has been instructed by the government, the spread will take place quickly.

In addition, the use of masks is also widely violated by the public. The lack of compliance by the community in using masks is because the community is not used to wearing masks, making them feel uncomfortable when breathing. Low public awareness of washing hands after leaving the house is also the cause of the spread of Covid-19. The community cannot be completely blamed because socialization carried out by the government is still not optimal, both in terms of wearing masks, washing hands after leaving the house, and media that can act as intermediaries in the spread of Covid-19.

The community cannot contain their interests to satisfy and meet their needs, so the advice and instructions given by the government are often ignored, both social distancing and washing hands after leaving the house. Community disobedience also continued after the government imposed PSBB in several areas. PSBB is a policy made by the central government and local governments to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus. This regulation limits community activities such as teaching and learning activities, religious activities, use of transportation, tours, etc.

The non-compliance discussed in this subsection reinforces a survey conducted by the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Public Health, Airlangga University (Hadi, N, Kuku SW., Nurita, D., & Puspitasari, n.d.). The survey they conducted with the scope of traditional markets and supermarkets/minimarkets is not much different. Traditional markets: 96% of people are actively interacting; 84.1 % did not use masks when interacting, and 89.3% did not apply social distancing. The results obtained in traditional markets and people who go to supermarkets/minimarkets do not significantly differ. 97.6 % of people go to supermarkets or minimarkets; 49% do not use masks, while 61.7% follow government directives in implementing social distancing regulations. This survey also found that 72.5 % of the people were still actively gathering in cafes or coffee shops.

**d. Lack Of Coordination Between Related Sectors**

Weak inter-agency coordination is a fatal problem. This problem can impact the handling of Covid-19 due to the slow decision-making process. This can happen because of the government system that places the central government in charge of disaster management. The concept of regional autonomy also applies where local governments can carry out decisions or regulations in their respective regions. The regional government

considers that the spread of the Covid-19 virus is a problem that can be handled, but in fact, this problem must be jointly managed by the central government. When the local government enacted regulations to prevent Covid-19, the central government even criticized the regulations from the local government.

The central government instructed local governments to withhold information regarding the spread of Covid-19 that was occurring (Nugraheny, 2020). The central government thinks this needs to be done because the local government is overly dramatizing the case of the spread of Covid-19 in Indonesia.

The regional government provides information regarding the spread of the Covid-19 virus because the regional government is worried about the central government for being slow in conveying information regarding the spread of Covid-19. Regulations regarding regional heads submitting information regarding Covid-19 have also not been submitted because they are still awaiting coordination between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Health.

## CONCLUSION

Covid-19 is a world pandemic whose spread is massive. In handling the Covid-19 pandemic, community and government synergy is needed. The successful handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia is the responsibility of all Indonesian citizens, both from the government and civil society. However, there are still deficiencies in pandemic management. Lack of coordination between agencies and lack of public compliance in handling the Covid-19 pandemic are the main problems in handling pandemics.

The government needs to develop an effective public communication policy as the front line of efforts to provide accurate information, build trust and provide a sense of security to the public in crises. Meanwhile, the community must also comply with the policies made by the government so that civil-military synergy can be well established.

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