Impact of Social Protection Policy in Indonesia Post Covid-19 Pandemic

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Article Info

Abstract:
Social protection policy is one of the Government's efforts to ease the burden on communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy includes providing social assistance, subsidies, and economic stimulus. Analysis of the impact of social protection policies in Indonesia post-COVID-19 is essential to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of these policies. This analysis can also be used to provide better policy recommendations in the future. The research method uses descriptive qualitative with a post-positivism approach, which is a paradigm that emphasizes objectivity and rationality in research in analysing the impact of social protection policies in post-COVID-19 Indonesia. The research results show that these social protection programs' effects include increasing people's income, improving nutrition, increasing access to health services, and improving quality of life. Apart from that, these programs have also helped poor and vulnerable communities to become more independent and empowered. However, there are still several challenges in implementing social protection programs in Indonesia. These challenges include limited budgets, lack of coordination between programs, and low levels of community participation. To overcome these challenges, the Government needs to make various efforts, including increasing the budget for social protection programs, strengthening coordination between programs, and increasing community participation.

Keyword: Social Protection, Policy, Post Covid-19

INTRODUCTION

Post-COVID-19 social protection policies in developing countries have had a significant impact. Cash transfers and food subsidies have helped millions meet their basic needs. Health support has helped prevent hunger and malnutrition, and consent to small and medium businesses has helped keep the economy running (Abdoul-Azize & El Gamil, 2021; Gerard et al., 2020). Although post-COVID-19 social protection policies in developing countries have had a significant impact, much remains to be done. Developing countries need to continue to strengthen their social protection systems to

ensure that they can protect society from the effects of pandemics and other crises in the future (Barron et al., 2022; Razavi et al., 2020).

These social protection policies have helped millions worldwide survive the pandemic. However, many people still have not received the help they need (Jawad, 2019; Klein et al., 2019; Ouma, 2019). In some countries, governments have failed to provide sufficient assistance to people affected by the pandemic (Warfa, 2019). In other countries, the aid is insufficient to meet people's basic needs. Many people do not qualify for social assistance (Kalache et al., 2020; Summerton, 2020). For example, people who work informally or are undocumented often cannot access social assistance. Effective social protection policies must cover all affected by the pandemic, regardless of employment or legal status (Devereux, 2021; Ratuva et al., 2021).

In Indonesia, the Government issued a social protection policy during COVID-19 to protect society from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (Olivia et al., 2020). This policy includes various programs, such as social assistance, subsidies, and monetary stimulus. The social protection policy during COVID-19 aims to maintain people's purchasing power, prevent layoffs, and maintain economic stability (Sumadi, 2023). It is also hoped that this policy can help people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic to survive. Some of the programs included in the social protection policy during the Covid-19 period are cash social assistance (BST), Family Hope Program (PKH), Pre-Employment Card, electricity subsidy, 3 kilogram LPG gas subsidy, economic stimulus (Kurnianingsih et al., 2020; Vaziralli, 2020).

Social protection policies during COVID-19 have succeeded in helping people survive during the pandemic (Iping, 2020; Nugroho & Ruhama, 2021). This policy has also helped maintain economic stability and prevent layoffs. The Social Protection Policy Program during COVID-19 in Indonesia is facing various problems. First, this program is not on target. Many people do not receive assistance, while many people can receive service. Second, this program is ineffective. The assistance provided is not enough to meet community needs. Third, this program is inefficient. Many must wait long to receive service (Nawawi, 2021; Rizki et al., 2021). Apart from that, social protection policies during Covid-19 are also unsustainable. This policy only applies during the Covid-19 pandemic. After the pandemic ends, this policy will be revoked.

Even though it has several weaknesses, the social protection policy during Covid-19 is still essential. This policy has helped people survive amidst the pandemic and maintain economic stability. Social protection policies during Covid-19 must continue to be improved to be more targeted and sustainable. Thus, this policy can help society prosper and strengthen the economy. Social protection policies aim to protect the community from adverse impacts caused by various factors, such as poverty, natural disasters, and pandemics.

Social protection policies encompass various forms such as social assistance, subsidies, and social security programs. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the significance of these policies has heightened due to the widespread economic hardships faced by many individuals. These policies play a crucial role in enabling people to fulfill their fundamental requirements, including access to food, housing, and healthcare. Evaluating the effects of social protection policies implemented post-COVID-19 can yield valuable insights into their efficacy. Such insights are instrumental in refining and enhancing future social protection policies. (Retnaningsih, 2020). Based on the

background provided, the formulation of the problem is the Impact of Social Protection Policy in Indonesia Post Covid-19 Pandemic with the aim of understanding its impact.

METHOD

Qualitative research operates within the post-positivism paradigm, which highlights the notion that reality isn't objectively measurable but is shaped by social, cultural, and historical factors. Consequently, qualitative inquiry delves into individuals' subjective realities, seeking to comprehend the nuances of their experiences, interpretations, and values within observed contexts. Post-positivism serves as a research framework emerging in response to positivism, acknowledging the limitations of purely objective measurements (Prayag,2023). The analysis was conducted logically, observing and understanding the relationship between various facts or ideas (Boros et al., 2000). This can be done by using existing case study phenomena. Logical analysis can be used to understand various things, including the relationships between multiple facts, the causes and effects of events, and the possible outcomes of actions. This can be a handy tool for making decisions in this research. The data analysis will be conducted through a qualitative approach. The findings of the analysis will be presented in the form of a narrative description encompassing the main findings related to Impact of Social Protection Policy in Indonesia Post Covid-19 Pandemic

Qualitative research is often used in social sciences, psychology, anthropology, and other fields where understanding the subjective experiences of individuals is essential. It is beneficial for exploring complex social phenomena, understanding cultural differences, and investigating social norms and values. Overall, the post-positivism paradigm and logical analysis approach in qualitative research emphasize the importance of understanding reality's subjective nature and exploring individuals' experiences, meanings, and values within their social and cultural contexts. These approaches can provide valuable insights into complex social phenomena and inform decision-making in various fields.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1.   Condition of Social Protection Programs in Indonesia

Indonesia's Social protection programs are designed to protect society from various social risks, such as poverty, unemployment, and natural disasters. This program aims to improve community welfare and reduce social inequality. Government agencies, such as the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Manpower, and the National Disaster Management Agency, manage social protection programs in Indonesia. Social protection programs in Indonesia consist of various types of programs, such as social assistance programs, social security programs, and community empowerment programs. Social assistance programs, such as food, health, and educational services, directly assist needy people.

Social security programs protect the community from various social risks, such as health insurance programs, old age insurance programs, and work accident insurance programs. Community empowerment programs aim to increase the community's ability to meet their living needs, such as skills training programs, business assistance programs, and community development programs. Social protection

programs by the Indonesian Government The Indonesian Government has several social protection programs, including:

- Family Hope Program (PKH): PKH is a conditional cash assistance program for poor and vulnerable families. Eligible families will receive cash assistance every month.
- Non-Cash Food Assistance (BPNT): BPNT is a food assistance program for poor and vulnerable families. Families who meet the requirements will receive rice, eggs, and cooking oil assistance.
- Smart Indonesia Program (PIP): PIP is an educational assistance program provided to students from poor and vulnerable families. Eligible students will receive cash assistance to purchase school supplies.
- National Health Insurance Program (JKN): JKN is a health insurance program that provides health protection to all Indonesian citizens. Indonesian citizens who meet the requirements will receive a BPJS Health card, which can be used to obtain health services at health facilities collaborating with BPJS Health.

Apart from these programs, the Indonesian Government also has several other social protection programs, such as:

- Cash Social Assistance Program (BST): BST is a cash assistance program provided to people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. People who meet the requirements will receive cash assistance of IDR 300,000 monthly.
- Pre-Employment Card Program: Pre-Employment Card is a job training program that incentivizes people who want to improve their work skills. People who meet the requirements will get a Pre-Employment card, which can be used to take part in job training and earn incentives.
- Direct Cash Assistance Program (BLT): BLT is a cash assistance program provided to communities affected by natural disasters. People who meet the requirements will receive cash assistance of IDR 600,000 monthly.
- These social protection programs aim to help people in need and improve the welfare of Indonesian society.

These social protection programs demonstrate the Indonesian government's commitment to addressing a wide range of social and economic challenges faced by its citizens. By providing cash assistance during crises, offering opportunities for skills development, and supporting disaster-affected communities, these programs aim to alleviate poverty, improve livelihoods, and enhance the overall welfare of Indonesian society.

However, as mentioned earlier, it remains crucial for these programs to be coordinated effectively to avoid duplication of efforts, ensure efficient resource allocation, and maximize their impact on the well-being of the population. Coordination among government agencies, data sharing, monitoring, and evaluation are essential elements in the successful implementation of these programs to ensure that they reach their intended beneficiaries and achieve their objectives.

2. Coordination between government agencies in implementing social protection policies

Improving coordination between government agencies in implementing social protection policies is crucial for optimizing the impact of these programs. When agencies work in isolation, it can lead to inefficiencies, overlapping efforts, and a lack of synergy.

To address these challenges, Indonesia should establish a centralized coordination body responsible for overseeing and harmonizing social protection initiatives. Clear roles and responsibilities must be defined, standardized guidelines should be developed, and regular interagency meetings should be held to foster communication and cooperation. Implementing data-sharing systems, conducting performance evaluations, and involving the public in feedback mechanisms can further enhance coordination. By creating a collaborative environment, government agencies can work together more effectively, ensure efficient resource allocation, and better serve the needs of the population, ultimately achieving the overarching goal of improving social welfare and protection.

Lack of coordination between government agencies in implementing social protection policies is one factor that causes these policies' low effectiveness. Coordination between government agencies ensures that social protection policies run effectively and efficiently. Without good coordination, the various government agencies involved in implementing social protection policies can work out of sync, leading to inefficiencies and even failure in policy implementation.

One example of the lack of coordination between government agencies in implementing social protection policies is the case of overlapping social assistance programs. In Indonesia, various social assistance programs are run by multiple government agencies. However, there is not uncommon overlap between these different programs, which means that people cannot obtain maximum benefits from these programs. Apart from that, a lack of coordination between government agencies can also lead to duplication of social assistance programs.

In Indonesia, several social assistance programs have the same goal. However, due to the lack of good coordination, the various programs were carried out separately, which resulted in budget waste. Lack of coordination between government agencies in social protection policies can hurt society. The community cannot obtain maximum benefits from social assistance programs, and budget waste can occur. Therefore, efforts must be made to improve coordination between government agencies in implementing social protection policies.

Efforts that can be made to improve coordination between government agencies in implementing social protection policies include:

- Hold regular meetings between government agencies involved in implementing social protection policies.
- Form a working team of representatives from various government agencies implementing social protection policies.
- Develop a joint work plan containing various social assistance programs that various government agencies will implement.
- Conduct regular evaluations of the implementation of social protection policies.
- With these efforts, it is hoped that coordination between government agencies in implementing social protection policies can be improved so that the effectiveness of these policies can increase.

3. **Lack of accurate data and information regarding poor and vulnerable communities**

Social protection policy is a policy that aims to protect the poor and vulnerable from various socio-economic risks. This policy can provide social assistance, subsidies,

or programs to improve the welfare of the poor and vulnerable. Accurate data and information regarding poor and vulnerable communities are essential in formulating social protection policies. This data and information can be used to determine the number and characteristics of poor and vulnerable people and their needs. With accurate data and information, the Government can formulate social protection policies that are right on target and effective.

Unfortunately, currently, many social protection policies are not based on accurate data and information. This causes social protection policies to be poorly targeted and ineffective. As a result, poor and vulnerable people do not get maximum benefits from social protection policies. To overcome this problem, the Government needs to improve the quality of data and information regarding poor and vulnerable communities. The Government must also coordinate with various related parties, such as non-governmental organizations and academics, to obtain accurate data and information. With accurate data and information, the Government can formulate social protection policies that are right on target and effective.

Apart from that, the Government also needs to periodically evaluate the social protection policies implemented in terms of effectiveness and efficiency. This evaluation can be carried out by involving poor and vulnerable communities as beneficiaries of social protection policies. In this way, the Government can better understand their needs and improve the policies that have been implemented. The importance of accurate data and information in formulating social protection policies also shows how important transparency and accountability are in implementing these policies. The Government must ensure that the public can access this data and information openly and quickly. Apart from that, the Government also needs to ensure that the funds used for social protection policies are used effectively and efficiently and can be accounted for by the community.

Social protection policies are one way to protect the poor and vulnerable facing various socio-economic risks. However, these policies must be based on accurate data and information and implemented with transparency and accountability. Thus, social protection policies can positively impact and benefit people in need.

Social protection policies play a vital role in safeguarding the well-being of the poor and vulnerable in society, shielding them from various socio-economic risks. These policies encompass a range of measures, such as social assistance programs, subsidies, and initiatives designed to uplift the living standards of disadvantaged populations. Accurate and comprehensive data and information about these communities are the cornerstone of effective social protection policy formulation. Such data allows policymakers to identify the precise number of individuals facing poverty and vulnerability, as well as their unique characteristics and specific needs. Armed with this precise information, the government can tailor social protection policies to be precisely targeted, ensuring that assistance reaches those who need it most.

4. Lack of budget allocated for social protection programs

Social protection programs are programs designed to protect people from poverty and inequality. These programs can include various things, such as social benefits, housing assistance, and health assistance. The budget allocated to social protection programs is essential because these programs can help people who need it most. A lack

of funding can mean that people cannot access these programs, and they can have difficulty meeting their needs.

There are several reasons why budgets for social protection programs may decrease. One reason is that the Government may not have enough money to finance these programs. Another reason is that the Government may not consider these programs a priority. A lack of budget for social protection programs can significantly impact the people who need it most. These people may be unable to access the programs they need to meet their needs. As a result, they may have difficulty meeting their basic needs, such as food, shelter, and health care.

A lack of budget for social protection programs can also impact the economy as a whole. People who cannot access these programs may not be able to work productively, or they may not be able to start their businesses. As a result, the economy may slow down, and people may lose their jobs. Budgets for social protection programs are critical to ensuring that needy people can access these programs. A lack of funding can have a significant impact on these people and can hurt the economy as a whole.

Low capacity of local governments in implementing social protection programs

The social protection program is one of the Government's efforts to reduce poverty and improve community welfare. This program aims to assist underprivileged communities so that they can meet their basic needs. Local governments have an essential role in implementing social protection programs. Local governments are responsible for identifying disadvantaged communities and distributing aid to them. Regional governments are also responsible for overseeing the implementation of social protection programs so that they run well.

However, the low capacity of local governments in implementing social protection programs can hinder the success of these programs. Local governments that do not have sufficient capacity may not be able to identify disadvantaged communities appropriately. Local governments may also be unable to distribute aid to underprivileged communities promptly. The low degree of local governments in implementing social protection programs can hurt underprivileged communities. Disadvantaged communities may not get the help they need. As a result, they may be unable to meet their basic needs and live in poverty.

Therefore, efforts need to be made to increase the capacity of local governments in implementing social protection programs. This effort can be done by providing training to local governments, technical assistance to local governments, and financial support to local governments. By increasing the capacity of local governments, it is hoped that social protection programs can run better and provide more significant benefits for underprivileged communities.

Alternative Social Protection Policies in Indonesia

The Government needs to evaluate the social protection policies that have been issued. This evaluation was carried out to see the effectiveness and efficiency of the social protection policies that have been published. Apart from that, the Government also needs to make breakthroughs in social protection policies. This breakthrough was made to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of social protection policies. One breakthrough that can be made is by implementing digital-based social protection

policies. Digital-based social protection policies can be implemented using information and communication technology. Digital-based social protection policies have several advantages compared to conventional social protection policies. There are three alternative breakthroughs in digitizing social protection policies, including:

- First, digital-based social protection policies are more targeted. Using this technology makes it easier for stakeholders to collect data.
- Second, digital-based social protection policies are more efficient. This saves more government budget.
- Third, digital-based social protection policies are more transparent to gain sustainable public trust in policy implementation.

Therefore, the Government needs to consider implementing digital-based social protection policies. Digital-based social protection policies can increase the effectiveness and efficiency of social protection policies. The Government also needs to coordinate with various related parties in implementing social protection policies. This coordination is carried out to ensure that social protection policies can run effectively and efficiently. By carrying out evaluations, breakthroughs, and coordination, it is hoped that social protection policies in Indonesia can be more optimal in mitigating the impact of the post-COVID-19 pandemic on society.

The Government must also strengthen the existing social safety net system, such as social assistance programs and health insurance. These programs need to be improved regarding coverage, value of assistance, and provision of clear information to the community. In addition, the Government needs to strengthen the capacity of institutions related to social protection, such as the Ministry of Social Affairs, district/city social services, and non-governmental organizations. By taking these steps, it is hoped that social protection policies can be a better solution in dealing with the impact of the health and economic crisis.

The impact of social protection policies in Indonesia post-COVID-19 pandemic is multifaceted and has been a critical aspect of the country's response to the crisis. These policies have aimed to mitigate the economic and social consequences of the pandemic on vulnerable populations. In summary, social protection policies in Indonesia post-COVID-19 have played a crucial role in mitigating the economic and social impacts of the pandemic. They have provided much-needed support to vulnerable populations, stabilized the economy, and helped Indonesia recover from the crisis. However, addressing challenges and strengthening the system will be important for long-term resilience and inclusive development.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Social protection policy in Indonesia after Covid-19 is important to pay attention to. This is because the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the Indonesian economy. These impacts include a decrease in people's income, an increase in the number of unemployed, and an increase in the prices of necessities. To overcome this impact, the Government has issued various social protection policies. However, several things still need to be improved regarding social protection policies in Indonesia after Covid-19.

One of the things that needs to be improved is the need to increase coordination between related institutions. This is because social protection policy is a cross-sectoral

policy. Therefore, coordination between associated institutions is needed so that these policies can run effectively. Apart from that, it is also necessary to evaluate the social protection policies that the Government has issued. This evaluation was carried out to determine the effectiveness of the policy in helping communities affected by the post-covid-19 pandemic.

Apart from improving coordination and policy evaluation, another thing that needs to be improved is increasing community access to social assistance. Many people are not registered in social assistance programs due to various factors, such as not having an ID card or data not being recorded properly. Therefore, the Government must ensure that social assistance programs are available and accessible to everyone who needs them. The Government also needs to take an approach based on community needs. Each region has different needs depending on the economic and social conditions in the area. Therefore, it is necessary to take an approach that suits the needs of local communities.

Finally, there needs to be strict supervision of using the budget for social protection policies. This is important to ensure that the funding is used effectively and efficiently to help communities affected by the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. With these improvements, social protection policies in post-covid-19 Indonesia are hoped to run better and more effectively in helping people in need. The implication is to enhance coordination, evaluate policies, improve access, and ensure budget supervision for effective post-COVID social protection in Indonesia.

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