

Government Policy in Distribution of Cash Social Assistance (BST) In the New Normal Era

Nanda Herijal Putra^{1*}

Constitutional Law Study Program, Sharia Faculty, Institut Agama Islam Negeri Langsa¹

Email: nandaherijalputra@iainlangsa.ac.id

(**Received:** December 12-2021; **revised:** December 20-2021; **published:** December 31-2021)

ABSTRACT

This study examined government policies in the distribution of Cash Social Assistance (BST) in the new normal era of the covid-19 pandemic. Research location in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency. This research uses a qualitative approach, data collection is done through observation, interviews, and documentation. The results of the study found that government policies in the distribution of BST social assistance to the poor in the new normal era of the Covid-19 pandemic were in fact middle-class economic communities. Although they are affected by Covid-19, many poor families affected by Covid-19 do not get BST social assistance. In the new normal era, the Government of Indonesia re-opened public spaces for community activities in the hope that the wheels of the people's economy returned to normal, but people's dependence on social assistance increased and the community continued to rely on social assistance from the government. Thus, the community does not seek to develop itself to improve the family economy

Keywords: Government Policy, Social Assistance, Cash Social Assistance (BST), New Normal

INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) resulting in a mild respiratory infection such as flu, to lung infection. The coronavirus was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China which occurred at the end of 2019. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, people experience various obstacles in living a normal life. As a result of covid-19 in Indonesia various losses are caused to the economy of the community. The government carries out various policies to overcome the covid-19 pandemic including enacting psbb in accordance with government regulation No. 21 of 2020 (Yamali & Putri, 2020). Therefore, with the enactment of PSBB so that various activities that are usually carried out must be stopped. Whether it is activities in the industrial sector or office activities in the temporary period must be stopped operating. In addition, educational activities, public services, places of worship, shopping centers, restaurants and tourist attractions also experienced the same thing. Thus, physical distancing affects the decline of various economic activities of the community.

Presidential Decree No. 12 of 2020 confirms that Covid-19 as one type of non-natural disaster. (Manullang, 2021) The implementation of Presidential Decree No. 12 of 2020, continued in conjunction with the policies carried out by the Regional Government on the enactment of Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) and Physical Distancing to overcome the prevention of the Covid-19 disaster. Based on the explanation above, the types of disasters are as follows:

1. Natural disasters are disasters that occur due to natural events such as earthquakes, tsunamis, erupting mountains, floods, droughts, hurricanes, and landslides.

2. Non-Natural disasters are disasters that occur due to errors, omissions, and non-natural events such as human errors and omissions in using technology, failure of modernization, epidemics, and disease outbreaks.
3. Social disasters are disasters caused by human events such as social conflicts between groups and terrors.

Based on the types of disasters mentioned above, covid-19 is a non-natural disaster caused by disease outbreaks. The spread of Covid-19 among the community is increasingly widespread because the number of cases exposed to Covid-19 is increasing by the day. Thus covid-19 is one type of non-natural disaster caused by the coronavirus outbreak. In this case, various assistance programs from the government are channeled to overcome economic problems faced by the community during the Covid-19 pandemic, namely the provision of various types of social assistance during Covid-19. (Zakiyah et al., 2020) The purpose of the assistance is to see the extent of achieving the objectives of the social assistance program provided to help communities affected by Covid-19. Assistance provided by the Government is not only in the framework of handling Covid-19, but also to deal with the economic crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In June 2020 the government revoked the status of psbb and implemented new normal conditions to encourage the acceleration of national economic recovery by establishing a Committee on Handling Covid-19 and National Economic Recovery (PEN). New normal is a change in people's behavior or habits to keep carrying out activities as usual by implementing health protocols during the Covid-19 pandemic such as washing hands with soap or with hand sanitizer, not touching the face with unwashed hands, applying physical distancing, and wearing masks in every activity, especially when in public places.

In dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic the government provides several forms of social assistance, one of which is in the form of Cash Social Assistance (BST). BST Social Assistance policy is one of the government programs to handle health at the time of the Covid-19 pandemic. BST Social Assistance is in the form of cash for low-income households as an effort from the government to improve national economic stability during the Covid-19 pandemic. Although it has been clearly regulated about the management of BST Social Assistance, but at the time of implementation in the field there are irregularities. The Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia is not over, but people's activities and lives must continue to reduce the burden on the government in aiding every household due to lock downs carried out to prevent coronavirus transmission. As a result of people constantly staying at home, the economic growth of the community is slowing, the industry is not running, the community loses its job and has no income. This is because the Covid-19 pandemic affects various sectors of people's lives, especially the economic sector of the community with the lowest level of welfare. Thus, to fulfill the daily life of society must adapt to new life habits.

New normal is a condition or social habit in people's lives or individual behavior that arises after the covid-19 pandemic is completed (Habibi, 2020). BST Social Assistance in the new normal era became the government's flagship program through the Ministry of Social Affairs for communities affected by Covid-19. BST Social Assistance is a cash aid distributed by the Post Office in cash from the government to beneficiary families (KPM) every month. The implementation of BST Social Assistance policy in the new normal era is organized by the government, to improve the welfare of the poor affected by Covid-19. In its implementation, the BST Social Assistance Program in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency caused problems,

it was due to the BST Social Assistance program policy to overcome the impact of Covid-19 as a form of government anticipation to deal with problems that occur in the community. But in its implementation the BST Social Assistance Program causes problems in the field such as not on target and the dependence of the community on BST Social Assistance is getting higher. People who are economically unable to meet their daily needs and are affected by Covid 19 do not get BST Social Assistance, but people who are classified as economically able get it to cause a commotion among the community.

METHOD

The research used is a qualitative approach with a descriptive approach to analysis with the aim to analyze and describe in the form of a sentence description of government policies in the expansion of BST social assistance in the new normal era of the covid-19 pandemic. Qualitative research is a study that aims to understand a phenomenon experienced by penelian subjects (Shidiq & Choiri, 2019). Qualitative research is used to examine the natural condition of objects. Sugiono explained that qualitative data is data in the form of words, sentences, and images (Pratiwi, 2017). Meanwhile, data collection in the field is done through documentation in the form of secondary data and interviews in the form of primary data which is then described in the form of narratives and then the data is analyzed based on public policy theories and concepts given through the data interpretation process. In addition, field observations were also carried out to obtain data related to government policies in the distribution of Cash Social Assistance (BST) in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency in the new normal era. The observational data is then processed and presented in narrative form, then analyzed using the framework of public policy theory and interpreted to give meaning to reality in the field.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Indonesian government conducts various policies in the framework of handling Covid-19 such as social distancing appeals, working from home for employees, studying at home for students and students, imposing regional restrictions, physical distancing, building Covid-19 volunteer posts in villages as well as the closure of public places such as tourist attractions, entertainment venues, shopping places, rice stalls and coffee shops. The policy was carried out by the government to break the chain of spread of Covid-19 in the community. Due to the spread of the covid-19 virus, the Government of Indonesia issued a regulation on the Enactment of Restrictions on Community Activities (PPKM) until the new normal rules. The Indonesian government first issued public policy instructions implementing PPKM on January 11 to January 25, 2021, which includes DKI Jakarta and 23 districts / cities in six provinces that have a high risk of Covid-19. (Rizal et al., 2021) During the enactment of PPKM, low economic communities have difficulty in meeting daily living needs due to the impact of ppkm which includes the prohibition of activities outside the home. The provision of BST social assistance in the form of cash assistance to the community in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency is to ease the burden of life of underprivileged people during the coronavirus pandemic.

Covid-19 in Indonesia paralyzed community economic activities in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency and poverty rates increased, MSME employers made job cuts (layoffs) of employees in anticipation of the impact of business closures in an undetermined time. In addition,

informal sector workers also feel the impact of Covid-19 and are harmed. Informal workers who usually get a daily income now have difficulty meeting the needs of daily living. They are stall workers, small shops, hawkers, traders in the market, online motorcycle taxi riders to daily freelancers who depend on daily income. In addition, farmers are very much feeling the impact of Covid-19 because the crop cannot be distributed to other regions. Farmers' crops are falling in price. The education sector is also affected by the implementation of PPKM policies and rules for working and learning from home. In handling this reality, the government expanded BST Social Assistance. Since the occurrence of Covid-19 the government has taken steps to minimize the spread of the virus more widely by implementing Restrictions on Community Activities (PPKM) and making rules for all communities in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency to stay at home if there is no urgent need. Over time, the government issued new normal rules and to rebuild the economic efforts of people affected by the covid-19 virus pandemic.

The Ministry of Social Affairs distributes BST Social Assistance as a social safety network program aimed at poor families affected by the covid-19 outbreak (Nur Fitria et al., 2021). BST Social Assistance is given to the poor who are included in the Integrated Social Welfare Data (DTKS) and have never received the assistance of the Family Hope Program (PKH) or Non-Cash Social Assistance (BPNT) / Sembako Program. BST Social Assistance policy in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency can help people affected by Covid-19 to meet the daily basic needs of families. BST Social Assistance is given to the community in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency which is implemented by the government to help the poor affected by Covid-19 to meet the needs of households. In response to that reality, Thomas R. Dye explains that public policy is what governments do or what governments don't do.

The implications of such policies are as follows: 1) Public policy has a specific purpose or has a variety of objective-oriented actions. 2) Public policy contains about government actions. 3) Public policy is what the government does so it is not what the government is still meant to do. 4) Public policy is positive in the sense that government actions are on a particular issue, or negative in the sense that the government's decision not to do something. 5) Government policy is at least based on laws and regulations that are binding and coercive citizens (Choiriyah, 2018). In dealing with the economic impact, the Indonesian government is preparing hundreds of trillions to help communities affected by Covid-19, especially the lower middle class. In order to meet the daily needs for the poor in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency. The government implements the BST Social Assistance policy as one of the assistances provided by the government due to the implementation of social distancing until the cessation of all economic activities or lock down.

The spread of Covid-19 has a negative impact on the economy of the people in the Manggarai region. This reality is because the source of people's income derived from crop yields is reduced due to the government's policy on limiting working hours and the prohibition of not being allowed to do relational activities, including economic relations that cause reduced income due to declining crop yields. This condition causes the number of poverty to increase (Tapung et al., 2020). To improve the effectiveness of the management of BST Social Assistance in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency, synchronization, and coordination between all related agencies, ranging from the Central level to the regional level (provinces, districts and cities), sub-district and village levels ranging from planning to implementation, involving various elements of society, as well as other related parties. To ensure the effectiveness of the distribution of BST

Social Assistance, the government cooperates with PT. POS Indonesia for the distribution of BST Social Assistance. According to Van Meter and Van Horn in Winarno explained that the implementation of policy as an action that individuals, groups, government, and private sector take leads to the achievement of the goals set in a certain policy decision that has been set before (Manongga et al., 2018). Thus, the standards and policy objectives are clear and measurable so that they can be realized. In this case, if the standards and policy objectives are blurred, then the occurrence of multiinterpretation and easy. Basically, policy goals are what is to be achieved by the program / policy, both tangible and intangible and based on the main interest in the systems that determine the achievement of policy goals.

At the time of the new normal era, people in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency are allowed to do their daily activities by still doing physical distancing, especially in crowded places, getting used to always washing their hands every time they touch something not only when the hands look dirty, using masks not only when sick or doing activities outside the house, bring hand sanitizer to wash hands after touching something, limit activities outside the home even though public places have been opened to the public, buy household needs for a period of one week or for a period of one month so that there is no need to go out to shop every day to the market because household needs have been provided for use for one week or even for one month, However, the government still imposes PPKM policy to break the chain of spread of the corona virus during the new normal era.

BST Social Assistance is given by the government specifically for the category of poor people in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency affected by Covid-19 to meet the very basic needs for the poor. In fact, the recipient of BST Social Assistance is a middle-class economic society. Although they experienced the impact of Covid-19, but instead many poor families in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency affected by Covid-19 did not get BST Social Assistance. Though they desperately need help from the government because they do not have income due to the defense of PPKM, while the efforts carried out collapsed due to reduced purchasing power of the community but did not get BST Social Assistance.

Thus, the phenomenon breeds commotion and suspicion in the community. People in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency are of the view that the source of data of BST Social Assistance recipients comes from the village (village head). BST Social Assistance recipients are people who have an emotional closeness and kinship with the local village device. This condition caused a commotion in the community of Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency. The community expects that all people affected by Covid-19 will get BST Social Assistance.

The COVID-19 pandemic that hit Indonesia disrupted the sector of people's lives in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency, one of the most affected for the community is food security, namely the production and distribution of community food is disrupted. In addition, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and caused a new food crisis. Basically, the implementation of BST Social Assistance policy in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency at the time of the Covid-19 pandemic was to meet the basic needs of poor households affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. In response to this, it is the implementation of the decision of a basic policy in the form of legislation, some in the form of orders or decisions delivered by the executive or decisions of a judicial body. A public policy that has been established will not be useful if it is not implemented optimally and correctly.

This is because the implementation of public policy seeks to realize public policy that is still abstract into real reality. Then there must be a consistent and professional implementor to socialize the contents of the policy. In other words, that the implementation of public policy seeks to cause outcomes that can be enjoyed especially by target groups. In fact, the implementation of BST Social Assistance in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency is not on target. In this regard, Rusli explained that Public Policy is a tool used to achieve public goals that have been determined, but not to achieve personal goals or the goals of certain groups and groups (Haerul et al., 2016). In response to this, Syaokani et al explained that the implementation as a series of activities carried out to implement a policy to the community so that a policy can bring benefits in accordance with the expected. Therefore, the series of activities carried out include Preparation of an advanced set of regulations as an interpretation of a policy, providing resources to drive implementation activities that include facilities and infrastructure and financial resources and the determination of human resources responsible for implementing a particular policy, how to deliver a policy done concretely. to the community (Wurara et al., 2020). Thus, the policy process must be able to help policymakers formulate their goals. A policy without purpose has no meaning, it is not even impossible to cause new problems, for example a policy that has no clear purpose, programs will be applied differently, the strategy becomes blurred, and eventually the analysts will declare that the government has lost its way. Since the Covid-19 pandemic spread throughout 2021, efforts have been made by the government to minimize the impact of the crisis. The social assistance of Sembako program developed continues to be expanded, both in terms of the number of recipients and the effectiveness of the benefits of the program for people in need. In the new normal era, social protection is the most important thing done by the government to optimize the fulfillment of the food needs of the poor in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency to protect its citizens. However, the formulation and effective implementation of social protection systems and programs is not easy to implement.

Wahab explained that the process of implementing an action carried out by individuals, officials, groups, governments, or private parties is directed to the achievement of the objectives set out in a particular policy planning (Evita et al., 2013). The implementation of BST Social Assistance policy is a stage carried out by the government to meet the needs of people's lives in the new normal era, without implementation then a policy is only a dream, or a good plan stored neatly in the archives. At the time of Covid-19 the pressure of living needs experienced by the community is temporary or short-term, social assistance such as the distribution of BST Social Assistance assistance is useful to reduce the vulnerability of poor families in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency who need it. The pressure of living needs and crisis situations experienced by society lasts a long time until in the new normal era. Although the implementation of the BST Social Assistance program has been realized to all corners in Indonesia, there are still some problems faced in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency, especially related to the database of social assistance recipients that are not completely accurate. BST Social Assistance receiver data in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency still uses update data that does not match the reality in the field. In the new normal era, the Government of Indonesia re-opened public spaces for community activities in the hope that the wheels of the people's economy returned to normal. In fact, the tendency of people in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency to dependence on social assistance has increased. BST Social Assistance distributed by the government makes the

community in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency continue to depend on the government. So that the community does not try to develop itself to improve the family economy.

Various forms of government social assistance provided to the community in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency cause community tensions against social assistance especially people who generally work in the informal sector. Therefore, the spread of the covid-19 pandemic and the implementation of government policies on the Enactment of Restrictions on Community Activities (PPKM) resulted in people experiencing decreased income and loss of livelihood, especially people working in the informal sector, so that the poverty rate increased. In the era of the Covid-19 pandemic, the issue of poverty as a multidimensional problem faced by various countries in the world so that not only in Indonesia, but poverty is also a problem for developing countries, especially for poor countries (Yusriadi et al., 2020).

The Covid-19 pandemic that hit Indonesia has had a negative impact on the economy of the community. Various changes in the socio-economic life of the community in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency changed the interaction of buying and selling in the market, the household industry suffered. Therefore, various strategies are applied to revive the economy while improving public welfare. Although the government has imposed a new normal period, the current conditions are not completely normal. Thus, the community remains disciplined and adheres to health protocols in accordance with the recommendations set by the government.

CONCLUSION

Government policy in the distribution of BST Social Assistance in the new normal era of the Covid-19 pandemic to the community in Darul Aman District of East Aceh Regency to provide social protection in the new normal era in target households affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. BST Social Assistance is given by the government specifically for the category of poor people affected by Covid-19, in fact the recipients of BST Social Assistance are middle class economic communities. Although they are affected by Covid-19, many poor families affected by Covid-19 do not get BST Social Assistance. In the new normal era, the Government of Indonesia re-opened public spaces for community activities in the hope that the wheels of the people's economy returned to normal, but people's dependence on social assistance increased and the community continued to rely on social assistance from the government. Thus, the community does not seek to develop itself to improve the family economy.

REFERENCES

- Choiriyah, C. (2018). Implementasi Kebijakan Publik dalam Penanganan Kemiskinan; Studi Implementasi Program Bantuan Langsung Tunai (BLT) di Kelurahan Kuto Batu Kecamatan Ilir Timur II. *Islamic Banking : Jurnal Pemikiran Dan Pengembangan Perbankan Syariah*, 3(2), 21. <https://doi.org/10.36908/isbank.v3i2.42>.
- Evita, E., Supriyono, B., & Hanafi, I. (2013). Implementasi Kebijakan Penataan Pedagang Kaki Lima (Studi Pada Batu Tourism Center Di Kota Batu). *Jurnal Administrasi Publik Mahasiswa Universitas Brawijaya*, 1(5), 944.
- Habibi, A. (2020). Normal Baru Pasca Covid-19. *Journal.Uinjkt.Ac.Id*, 4(1), 202.

- <http://journal.uinjkt.ac.id/index.php/adalah/article/view/15809>.
- Haerul, Akib, H., & Hamdan. (2016). Implementasi Kebijakan Program Makassar Tidak Rantasa (Mtr) Di Kota Makassar. *Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Administrasi Publik*, 6(2), 24. <https://doi.org/10.26858/jiap.v6i2.2477>.
- Manongga, A., Pangemanan, S., & Kairupan, J. (2018). Implementasi Program Keluarga Harapan Dalam Mengatasi Kemiskinan Di Kelurahan Pinokalan Kota Bitung. *Implementasi Program Keluarga Harapan Dalam Mengatasi Kemiskinan Di Kelurahan Pinokalan Kota Bitung*, 1(1), 4.
- Manullang, J. M. H. dkk. (2021). Tinjauan Yuridis Penetapan Bencana Nasional Non-Alam Penyebaran Covid-19 Sebagai Bencana Nasional Berdasarkan Keppres No.12 Tahun 2020 JO Pasal 1245 KUHPER. *Jurnal Hukum : Hukum Untuk Mengatur Dan Melindungi Masyarakat*, 7(12), 84–85.
- Nur Fitria, F., Wijaya, S. R., & Abhipraya, F. A. (2021). Efektivitas Penyaluran Bantuan Sosial Dari Pemerintah Untuk Disalurkan Kepada Masyarakat Terdampak Pandemi Covid-19 di Kabupaten Ponorogo Tahun 2020. *Jurnal Politikom Indonesiana*, 6(1), 45. <https://journal.unsika.ac.id/index.php/politikomindonesiana>.
- Pratiwi, N. I. (2017). Penggunaan Media Video Call dalam Teknologi Komunikasi. *Jurnal Ilmiah Dinamika Sosial*, 1(2), 211.
- Rizal, M., Afrianti, R., & Abdurahman, I. (2021). Dampak Kebijakan Pemberlakuan Pembatasan Kegiatan Masyarakat (PPKM) bagi Pelaku Bisnis Coffe shop pada Masa Pandemi Terdampak COVID-19 di Kabupaten Purwakarta. *Jurnal Inspirasi*, 12(1), 97.
- Shidiq, U., & Choiri, M. (2019). Metode Penelitian Kualitatif di Bidang Pendidikan. In *Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling* (Vol. 53, Issue 9). [http://repository.iainponorogo.ac.id/484/1/Method Penelitian Kualitatif Di Bidang Pendidikan.pdf](http://repository.iainponorogo.ac.id/484/1/Method%20Penelitian%20Kualitatif%20Di%20Bidang%20Pendidikan.pdf).
- Tapung, M. M., Regus, M., Payong, M. R., Rahmat, S. T., & Jelahu, F. M. (2020). Bantuan sosial dan pendidikan kesehatan bagi masyarakat pesisir yang terdampak sosial-ekonomi selama patogenesis Covid-19 di Manggarai. *Transformasi: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat*, 16(1), 13. <https://doi.org/10.20414/transformasi.v16i1.2067>.
- Wurara, C. N. C., Kimbal, A., & Kumayas, N. (2020). IMPLEMENTASI SISTEM INFORMASI PEMERINTAHAN DAERAH KOTA MANADO (Studi di Badan Perencanaan, Penelitian dan Pengembangan Daerah Kota Manado). *Jurnal Eksekutif*, 2(5), 3–4.
- Yamali, F. R., & Putri, R. N. (2020). Dampak Covid-19 Terhadap Ekonomi Indonesia. *Ekonomis: Journal of Economics and Business*, 4(2), 386. <https://doi.org/10.33087/ekonomis.v4i2.179>.
- Yusriadi, Tahir, S. Z. bin, Awaluddin, M., & Misnawati. (2020). Pengentasan Kemiskinan melalui Socialpreneur. *Wikrama Parahita : Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat*, 4(2), 116. <https://doi.org/10.30656/jpmwp.v4i2.2529>.
- Zakiyah, N., OKtavia, L., Khairiyah, F., & Ilman, M. A. (2020). Efektivitas Pelaksanaan Bantuan Sosial Dari Pemerintah Terhadap Masyarakat Terdampak Covid-19 Di Desa Gendongarum Kecamatan Kanor Kabupaten Bojonegoro. *Spirit Publik: Jurnal Administrasi Publik*, 15(2), 99–100. <https://doi.org/10.20961/sp.v15i2.43501>