

Regional Government Policies with Local Wisdom in Handling the Covid-19 Pandemic in Indonesia

Bernadeta Nefo Eka Wijayanti¹ (corresponding author)

¹Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Panca Marga, Indonesia; wijayantib1@gmail.com

Submitted: April 4, 2022 -Revised: April 24, 2022 -Accepted: April 28, 2022 -Published: April 30, 2022

ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia has been declared a national disaster. The handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia, although coordinated nationally by the central government, still involves local governments in making policies to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus, and policies in tackling the socio-economic impacts of society. The existence of Regional Autonomy gives the authority to local governments to manage regional potentials and make policies related to the interests of regional communities, however, during a pandemic which is a national disaster, local governments cannot have full authority, there are several things that are under the coordination of the Central Government. The existence of local wisdom is a regional potential. This study wants to find out how the local government's policies are in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic by paying attention to local wisdom which is a regional potential. This study uses primary data in the form of observations and secondary data in the form of scientific articles in journals that examine related problems, objective information from communication media, related reference books, using descriptive qualitative data analysis. The conclusion shows that there are local government policies in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in coordination with the central government, where local governments have the authority to manage, pay attention to local wisdom to empower local communities in policies for handling the Covid-19 pandemic.

Keywords: local government policy; local wisdom; Covid-19 pandemic

INTRODUCTION

In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia, preventing the spread of the virus and dealing with infected victims, both those with symptoms of illness and asymptomatic ones, as well as health and socio-economic impacts, require serious attention from the central and regional governments. This global pandemic has serious consequences, not only public health problems, but also has serious consequences in the social, economic, educational and other related fields.

The geographical and demographic conditions of Indonesia, with a large area as an archipelagic country consisting of around 17,000 islands and as a maritime country where 2/3 of Indonesia's territory is a marine area, are not easy to deal with and overcome a pandemic. The condition of Indonesia, with its large area, complex physical and heterogeneous demographic conditions, multi-ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious, is a fairly formidable challenge for the Indonesian government. With these conditions, public services are very complex and the government faces the complexity of physical geographical barriers, and in meeting the various needs of the community. The large number of people with uneven distribution, quality of skills and independence have an impact on various aspirations for public services that need to be responded to by the government.⁽¹⁾

With the stipulation of the Covid-19 pandemic as a national disaster, the central government as the highest leader in overcoming it, this is in accordance with Law no. 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government which places the president as the full leader of the country's efforts in handling the pandemic. These efforts are in the form of setting regulations, establishing a task force for handling pandemics, implementing restrictive policies, providing basic necessities, fulfilling health resources. The central government coordinates, fosters, and supervises effectively with the provinces, regencies and cities. In handling the pandemic, the central government, in this case led by the president, involves the TNI and POLRI to expedite the handling and this is the authority of the president as the highest leader, given the unprepared condition of human resources and facilities in the regions. The lack of readiness in the regions is understandable because the Covid-19 pandemic occurred beyond expectations long before, including in terms of being prepared to deal with it.

The regional government system in Indonesia adheres to a decentralized system with regional autonomy within the framework of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI).⁽²⁾ The Regional Autonomy Policy provides opportunities for regional governments to manage regional potential in the context of the welfare of the community by paying attention to regulatory signs that regulate the duties, responsibilities, and authorities of local governments. In relation to regional autonomy, regions have the freedom to take various actions that are expected to be in accordance with the conditions and aspirations of the regional community, the regional government is

more aware of the conditions and demands of the local community. ⁽³⁾ In terms of empowering local communities, local governments will find it easier to empower and create space for local communities to participate in the development process, as well as in terms of participating in handling the Covid-19 pandemic. Regional Autonomy provides an opportunity to empower the community to participate in the development process, which has a fairly broad meaning where when facing various problems and obstacles in the development process, including the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, it requires community empowerment to deal with it.

The socio-cultural values of the people in various regions in Indonesia that prioritize the values of mutual cooperation, the values of cooperation, tolerance, empathy are local wisdom that needs to be empowered in handling the pandemic, and this seems to be accommodated by the government. The local government in this case certainly understands the values of local wisdom that exist in their area. This study wants to know how local government policies in tackling the Covid 19 pandemic are related to regional autonomy.

METHODS

This study was a qualitative research. In qualitative research, researchers collect data based on a natural setting, because it is done naturally, the results of the research are also scientific. Qualitative research is more suitable for the type of research that understands social phenomena ⁽⁴⁾. The data in this study mostly used secondary data sourced from research results, studies, related scientific journal articles, seminar proceedings regarding the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic and local wisdom, information, related news from print and online media, reference books, and some use primary data from observations. The data was the result of observations in the form of community attitudes and behaviors that reflect the values of “*gotong royong*” in preventing the spread of Covid-19 and in showing concern for helping community members who are victims of the pandemic, as well as the behavior of the local government that I saw in the DIY area, Central Java. Data analysis in this study used descriptive qualitative data analysis, explaining in words, language, with logical assumptions.

RESULTS

The coordination of the central government with regional governments in handling the Covid-19 pandemic is related to the regional government system in Indonesia adhering to a decentralized system with regional autonomy, where with regional autonomy, regions are given the authority to manage regional potential in order to accelerate the achievement of regional community welfare. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the main thing was health issues, where in normal conditions local governments have the authority to make policies regarding the achievement of public health in the regions, however, health policies by the government during a pandemic, local governments are under the coordination of the central government, in terms of It is led by the President. The central government has formed a Task Force for handling the Covid-19 pandemic which involves local government officials, determines restrictions on community activities, policies regarding vaccination, policies regarding social assistance and its distribution, in the education sector determines the learning process, determines Health Protocol rules in coordination with local governments.

Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government is the administration of regional government affairs and the Regional People's Representative Council according to the principle of autonomy and co-administration with the principle of autonomy as wide as possible within the system and principles of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, as referred to in the 1945 Constitution. ⁽⁵⁾ During a pandemic, the principle of autonomy as widely as possible cannot be fully implemented due to impossible conditions because it is a national disaster, in an emergency, where public safety is the main thing, moreover the Covid-19 pandemic is a global disaster that is difficult to predict when it will end. However, local governments have a strategic role, especially in the health sector, this is related to the decentralization policy of the health sector. In the health sector under regional autonomy, district/city-scale health affairs are decentralized to local governments, and provincial-level health affairs are decentralized to provincial governments, but during a pandemic, there are so many burdens and complex problems that need to be addressed and due to limited budget, tools and equipment. and health facilities, limited human resources, local governments have not been able to handle them properly.

The central government's policy of involving the TNI and POLRI to assist local governments in handling the pandemic is a positive thing, due to limited human resources, facilities in the regions in facing severe conditions in the health sector which also have an impact on the economic, social, psychological, educational fields. public. The involvement of TNI and POLRI officers in the regions is needed in addition to maintaining security, order, also assisting health workers, maintaining order and securing the distribution of social assistance, bringing order to the community in limiting community activities to prevent the spread of the virus by collaborating with local governments, helping facilitate vaccination process.

Coordination in terms of vaccination, the central government plays a role in determining national policies, administering vaccinations is handed over to the district/city government, coordinated and supervised by the provincial government, in this case the governor as the representative of the central government in the regions. Regional governments are given discretion and innovation opportunities to respond to the dynamic conditions of handling the Covid 19 pandemic in the regions accompanied by budget allocations from the central government to the regions. ⁽⁶⁾ With the discretion and opportunity to innovate, and the authority to empower the local community, the central government gives the local government the authority and opportunity to pay attention to and utilize local wisdom which is the socio-cultural values and attitudes of the local community that are positive and conducive in the context of tackling or handling Covid-19 pandemic.

DISCUSSION

Regional government policies in handling the Covid-19 pandemic cannot be separated from the status of regional governments with a decentralized and regional autonomy system within the framework of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia and is related to the conditions for determining the Covid-19 pandemic as a national disaster, an emergency condition that requires central government coordination. Government area follow up coordination from government center with make rule derivative from a number of previous rule has determined by government center, regarding protocol health, restrictions on community social activities in preventing the spread of the virus, handling patients infected with the virus, vaccination, provisions for affected social assistance and its distribution, provision of health workers, provision of health facilities, optimizing the function and role of *puskesmas* (community health center), and various related matters. Step a number of area in take initiative policy countermeasures the spread of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) with make " quarantine " policy area " by " independent before umbrella law and policy government center sometimes it creates problems when there is no legal umbrella and coordination from the central government, so there needs to be clarity and firmness from the central government, however this shows that there is an opportunity for local governments to innovate in making decisions, although not necessarily approved by the central government. Limited regional resources, including limited regional budgets, local governments make policies on relocation and budget refocusing in order to prioritize the interests of preventing the pandemic, even though there is assistance from the central government.

The granting of freedom and authority from the central government to local governments to manage regional potential is an opportunity for local governments to take advantage of both physical and non-physical potential in order to cope with the pandemic and its impact on society, not only in the health sector, but also in the economic, social, and economic fields. education, psychology. With the authority to manage regional potential, local governments have the opportunity to establish policies and actions that are in accordance with the conditions and aspirations of the local community because by logical Local Government more closer, more aware of various things that become the aspirations of the people in the region. to society.

The stipulation of Government Regulation No. 21 of 2020 concerning Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) in the context of accelerating the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic ⁽⁷⁾ by the central government, and various regulations to deal with both preventive and repressive pandemics, the regional government responded by making regulations, related policies. that are local, and as a step to implement regulations from the central government. The existence of Large-Scale Social Restrictions has a socio-economic impact, especially for poor people, this needs attention from both the central and regional governments, local governments respond to policies from the central government related to the determination of assistance and distribution of assistance to vulnerable people affected by the pandemic, especially in this case. poor people and this requires legal protection, in this case it has not been handled properly by the central government and local governments. In dealing with economic impacts in the community, local governments establish policies by optimizing local economic potential, relocating budgets, using village funds, and empowering communities by supporting socializing, and providing MSME facilities, empowering the community to care for the poor who are vulnerable to being affected by the pandemic.

Regional government policies respond to local wisdom as the basis for empowering the community to participate in the response to the pandemic. Local wisdom which is part of regional socio-cultural values is the potential of the community in the area, thus it is a regional potential , which gets the attention and is utilized by the local government in dealing with the pandemic and its impacts in the health, economic, social, educational, and psychological fields of society. Community involvement is very much needed in dealing with the pandemic, synergy and cooperation between the government and the community are needed. From observations, it can be seen that the central government, regional governments at the provincial, district and city levels appreciate local wisdom as something that needs to be supported and utilized in handling the pandemic. The provincial governments of Central Java, East Java, West Java, and several regions outside Java also seem to pay attention to and support local wisdom in handling the pandemic, for example in Central Java, the local wisdom of "*Jogo Tonggo*" (keeping neighbors) appears. relied on as community empowerment in dealing with the pandemic by the

Central Java provincial government led by the governor of Central Java by always providing motivation, support. With "*Jogo Tonggo*" it can reduce the burden on residents who are infected, where neighbors have an awareness of their willingness to help meet their needs, prioritizing care, mutual cooperation, willingness, togetherness, helping each other.

In East Java there is a "tough village". The East Java provincial government issued a policy that uses local wisdom "tough village", where villages are asked to create innovations, are able to make maximum use of local wisdom to reduce Covid-19 positive patients through tough villages based on local wisdom, this is considered effective because it is more acceptable village community. ⁽⁸⁾

In West Java, the values of local wisdom of the Sundanese and Baduy people show values that harmonize life with the natural environment that is healthy, clean, and conserves the environment. The culture of the Sundanese people has the concept of managing a healthy life and in harmony with the universe, the term "tri tangtu di buana" is divided into three areas, namely mountains, villages, beaches, maintaining distance from settlements, and living naturally, and this has received a response, positive feedback from the local government for community empowerment in motivating and disseminating a natural, clean and healthy lifestyle.

The local wisdom that emerged among the people in Central Java called "*Jogo Tonggo*" got the attention of the provincial government, in this case the governor of Central Java by establishing Central Java Governor Instruction Number 1 of 2020 and became the basis for community empowerment in dealing with the pandemic. to all district and city regional heads to form a Jogo Tonggo Task Force based on local wisdom and the spirit of mutual cooperation of the people of Central Java where the district / city regional head is the chairman and person in charge of the Task Force at the regional level. ⁽⁹⁾ In the news regarding the handling of the Covid 19 pandemic in Central Java, which was published on [Jatengprov.go.id](http://jatengprov.go.id), the mayor of Magelang gave motivation to all village officials in the context of strengthening the "*Jogo Tonggo*" Task Force in all areas in the city of Magelang. the community, motivates mutual cooperation, supports the "sharing hook" program, which is the local wisdom of the local community by placing basic necessities for free to members of the community in need. The Central Java provincial government under the leadership of the governor always motivates the community to strengthen local wisdom programs to participate in handling the pandemic.

In the Special Region of Yogyakarta (DIY), local wisdom can be seen which essentially prioritizes the principle of mutual cooperation, for example, if a neighbor is infected with the Covid-19 virus while self-isolating, the neighbor provides assistance with basic needs by not making direct contact, giving assistance to his family willingly. willingly, this is also a response to the motivational direction of the local government leadership.

In the city of Ambon there is a local wisdom of "*Cuci Negeri*". This Country Wash is a ceremony to clean the country as a symbol of self-purification, where here there is a ritual ceremony of the community together washing hands, feet, face in the water, this ritual is related to the hygienic behavior of everyday people. Washing the country means cleaning the country from various impurities and cleaning the hearts and minds of the people, there are values of cleanliness, unity, tolerance, deliberation. ⁽¹⁰⁾ The local wisdom of "*Cuci Negeri*" also gets support and motivation from the local government in order to shape clean and healthy living behavior.

Local wisdom in Bali "*Tri Hita Karana*" is used as the basis for the effective management of customary village funds, proven to be able to become a philosophical basis that becomes the guideline in every program and policy activity so that it can support the smooth acceleration of handling the Covid 19 pandemic. ⁽¹¹⁾ The provincial government of Bali empowers the existence of local wisdom "Indigenous Villages" with the issuance of the Bali Provincial Regulation Number 4 of 2019 concerning Traditional Villages in Bali, where Traditional Villages in Bali are recognized as legal subjects in the Bali Provincial government system, related to policies for handling pandemics in Bali, are the formation of a joint decision between the Governor of Bali and the Bali Province Traditional Village Council Number 472/1571/PPDA/DPMA, Number 05/SK/MDA-Prov Bali/III/2020 concerning the Establishment of a Mutual Assistance Task Force for Covid 19 Prevention Based on Traditional Villages in Bali. ⁽¹²⁾ Some of these local wisdoms have become the basis for local government policies in terms of community empowerment in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The local wisdom of the Dayak ethnic group in West Kutai, East Kalimantan province is known as the ritual of refusing reinforcements with the aim of preventing the local community from getting sick. ⁽¹³⁾ The ritual involves traditional leaders, in which the ritual uses water that has been prayed for and becomes holy water to clean oneself, and then is quarantined to limit meeting with outsiders, this ritual also gets a positive response and support from the local government.

CONCLUSION

Regional government policies in tackling the Covid 19 pandemic are in coordination with the central government because it is a national disaster emergency. The condition of the Covid 19 pandemic and related to

regional autonomy, regional governments have the authority to manage regional potential, empower regional communities by responding to local wisdom in the context of mitigating or handling the impact of the pandemic, and preventing the spread of Covid 19. The central government in coordination provides opportunities for regional governments to manage regional potential in the form of local wisdom in the context of implementing a decentralized and regional autonomy system. The local government responds and supports local wisdom, which contains the values of gotong royong, and implements it in policies for handling the Covid 19 pandemic.

REFERENCES

1. Ismail G. Implementation of Regional Autonomy in Handling the Covid-19 Pandemic *Journal of the Study of the Indonesian National Resilience Institute*. 2021;8(3):427.
2. Kuncoro M. *Regional Autonomy Towards a New Era of Regional Development*. Erlangga. 2014. 25.
3. Nadir S. Regional Autonomy and Village Decentralization: Towards Village Community Empowerment. *Journal of Prophetic Politics*. 2013;1(1):2.
4. Maleong LJ. *Qualitative Research Methodology*. Bandung: PT Rosdakarya; 2011.
5. Pemerintah RI. Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Autonomy. Jakarta: Pemerintah RI; 2014.
6. Ismail G. Implementation of Regional Autonomy in Handling the Covid-19 Pandemic *Journal of the Study of the Indonesian National Resilience Institute*, 2021;8(3):440.
7. Pemerintah RI. Government Regulation No. 21 of 2020 concerning PSBB. Jakarta: Pemerintah RI; 2020.
8. Rahmawati. Local Wisdom in Facing Covid-19: A Study of Tangguh Village in East Java. *MI Journal of Indonesian Social Sciences*. 2021;47(1).
9. Tyesta ALW, Lita. "Jogo Tonggo" is a Central Java Provincial Government Policy Based on Local Wisdom in Handling the Spread of Covid-19. *Proceedings of the National Webinar for the Acceleration of Customs-Based Covid-19 Handling in Indonesia*. Denpasar: Mahasaraswati University; 2020.
10. Nendisa RH, Matitaputty MI, Linsamputty N. Washing the Country as Local Wisdom in Handling Covid-19 in Ambon City. *Bacarita Law Journal*. 2021;1(2):104-106.
11. Utari D. Observing the Role of Local Wisdom in Handling a Pandemic From a Public Health Perspective. Jakarta: UPN Veteran Jakarta; 2022.
12. Hengki IGB, Masmoni NK. Through Indigenous Village Communities in Accelerating the Handling of Covid-19 With the Small-Scale Phenomenon of the Balinese Society. *Proceedings of the National Webinar . Acceleration of Indigenous-Based Covid-19 Handling in Indonesia*. Denpasar: Mahasaraswati University; 2020.
13. Uhay S, Sinaga F, Sudarmayasa IW, Perwana DE. West Kutai Benuaq Dayak Local Wisdom In Celebration of Rejecting reinforcements to ward off the impact of Covid-19. *National Webinar Proceedings. Acceleration of Indigenous-Based Covid-19 Handling in Indonesia*. Denpasar: Mahasaraswati University; 2020.