Effectiveness of Cash Assistance (BLT) for Communities Affected by The Pandemic Covid-19: Case study in Sirnajaya village, Cibadak sub-district, Sukabumi district

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Abstract

The Pandemic Covid-19 not only has an impact on health, but also has an impact on social and economic conditions. The social and economic impacts caused by the Pandemic Covid-19 are very influential on the level of community welfare, while the purpose of this paper is to find out and understand the effectiveness of the distribution of government programs, namely Direct Cash Assistance in the Sirnajaya Village area and the implementation of the Family Hope Program distribution in Cibadak District, Sukabumi, West Java., as well as explaining any problems that could hinder the distribution of the aid. The COVID-19 outbreak has hit many business sectors, resulting in layoffs, and reducing employment. Given the high mobility. This study uses a descriptive method with a qualitative approach and data triangulation analysis, the results of the study explain that the Indonesian government has carried out various efforts to deal with the pandemic. Various policies have been formulated to protect vulnerable people who are also affected by the Pandemic Covid-19 through social assistance policies provided by the government, which are expected to be able to help the poor affected by COVID-19 to continue to carry out their lives, such as the distribution of Direct Cash Assistance that occurred in the Sirnajaya Village area, District. Sukabumi, in this case the village government through village funds has carried out its functions in accordance with central government regulations, namely empowering the Sirna Jaya village community by maximizing the direct cash assistance for daily needs, although in the process there are still some problems that need to be resolved so that the distribution of the Cash Direct Assistance program can be well absorbed according to the predetermined targets.

Keywords: Effectiveness Cash Assistance, Social Assistance, Covid-19

A. Introduction

The Pandemic Covid-19 has had a huge impact, not only on health, but also on social and economic conditions. This epidemic has caused many business sectors to close, lay off employment, and decrease employment (Joharudin et al., 2020). The COVID-19 outbreak has hit many business sectors, resulting in layoffs, and reduced employment. Given the high mobility, the COVID-19 virus is not only felt by urban communities but can also spread in villages (Dadi, 2019; Ruhyana & Ferdiansyah, 2020).

In order to reduce the negative impact of the Pandemic Covid-19 on the national economy, the Indonesian government implemented several programs to strengthen social protection and economic stimulus, including the Family Hope Program (PKH), Pre-Employment Cards, Social Assistance, Micro and Ultra Micro MSME Stimulus, and
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reduced tariffs. electricity. Most of these programs are programs that have been routinely carried out by the government. In relation to COVID-19, the government then increased the number of beneficiaries from the aforementioned programs. One of the central government programs whose authority is given to the Village is the Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance, hereinafter abbreviated as BLTDD. BLTDD is assistance for the poor that comes from village funds. Village funds can contribute to the handling of COVID-19 through its economic and social resources. Especially from the Village Revenue and Expenditure Budget (APBDesa). Village funds can be allocated into an on-budget budget that can be used directly at the household and village levels. Based on Government Regulation Number 43 of 2014 states that the Village Fund is a fund that comes from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget intended for villages which is then transferred through the Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget and is intended for the purposes of government administration such as development, community development and community empowerment. The main measure used in the criteria for receiving Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (BLTDD) is recipients who have not received social assistance such as PKH and have lost income due to COVID-19 (Ananda, 2021; Arumdani et al., 2021; Achmad, 2021).

Through Presidential Instruction Number 4 of 2020, the President of the Republic of Indonesia directs all Ministries/Leaders, Governors/Regents/Mayors to speed up refocusing of activities, reallocation of budgets and procurement of goods and services for handling Covid-19. Furthermore, the Ministry of Finance has also reallocated APBN funds amounting to Rp 62.3 trillion. The funds are taken from the official travel budget, non-operational expenditures and honorariums for handling/controlling Covid-19, including social protection.

The purpose of establishing Perpu Number 1 of 2020 according to the Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani (2020) is to provide a legal basis for the government in setting extraordinary policies and steps due to the Pandemic Covid-19. These measures are implemented in the field of state finances and the financial sector in an effort to deal with health, humanitarian, economic and financial crises (Dadi, 2020; Sari & Priyastiwi, 2021; Widuri & Megatsari, 2021). The distribution of social assistance provided by the government to the people of Indonesia is not a new thing. Various social assistance and subsidy schemes have been implemented by the government to fulfill basic rights, ease dependents, and improve the standard of living of citizens who are less well off.

The existence of a social assistance policy provided by the government is expected to be able to help the poor affected by COVID-19 to continue to carry out their lives, but the implementation of the program is not fully running as the initial goal has been set, the problem that arises is that the various programs are not right on target. namely, people who are categorized as poor and entitled to assistance do not receive social assistance, while people who are not poor and do not have the right to receive social assistance empirically receive social assistance from the government (Dadi, 2014; Setiawan 2020; Prawira et al., 2021; Yuliadi & Sumitro, 2021).

As previously mentioned, during this pandemic, the Indonesian government sought and provided social assistance funds to the community through infrastructure funds that were diverted to villages with the aim of providing social assistance to people who really need it. This assistance is given considering that many people have lost their livelihoods or have been laid off from their jobs (Sidiq & Maulida, 2021). So
that the state is obliged to contribute to the community in the form of social assistance, the prolonged pandemic conditions certainly make it difficult for the poor to earn a living, and the Covid 19 BLT is one of the efforts to help ease the burden on the poor. Poverty referred to by the government is economic poverty, while in the field it is often found sociological poverty.

In the implementation of the social assistance policies that have been provided by the government, there are always various obstacles and problems, so that this can have a negative impact on the social assistance policy itself, considering the initial purpose of the social assistance program, to protect the people affected by the social assistance program. COVID-19 (Fazri, 2021; Lestari, 2021; Mediana & As’ari, 2021). Based on these problems, it is necessary to make efforts to improve this social assistance policy, especially in the matter of determining Target Households (RTS), so that in the future social assistance policies, both those that will be provided by the central government and from local governments will run optimally and have a positive impact on the community. Target Households (RTS). Sukabumi Regency, like various other regions in Indonesia, has also experienced the same thing, affected by the spread of this corona virus. Sukabumi Regency is one of several areas in West Java Province where the Covid-19 case was first discovered. Of course, this condition causes the Sukabumi area to be quarantined or large-scale social restrictions which of course hamper the economic activities of the people there. To deal with these socio-economic problems, the local village government issued BLT Covid 19 funds in accordance with the rules of the finance minister, the budget given was Rp. 600.000,- / Beneficiary Family/month for 3 Months (April to June 2019). However, this assistance is limited, people who have received PKH assistance, Basic Food Cards, and Pre-Employment Cards are not allowed to receive Covid 19 BLT. This encourages debate among the community where data on the poor from the Ministry of Social Affairs has been included in various other aids. People who feel poor demand similar assistance because the quarantine conditions prevent them from earning a living.

In regional autonomy it is stated that the village is the spearhead of an important object related to development in Indonesia. The village is a benchmark for the success or failure of the implementation of a country’s development. The concept of Nawacita as the main development program by President Joko Widodo also reinforces the importance of the Village Fund. In the Nawacita concept, one of the main concepts of development is to strengthen and develop suburban areas through villages as the main object of a unitary state. This makes the Central Government allocate special funds sourced from the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget directly to the Village Government called the Village Fund (DD). The village fund budget in 2020 is set at IDR 72 trillion. For the needs of BLT-D, we are allocated 20-30 percent of the total village funds. The implementation of BLT-D can be implemented for at least six months with the target beneficiaries being households. The target is relevant considering that most national programs related to social assistance refer to beneficiaries at the household level, such as the Family Hope Program, Non-Cash Food Assistance, and Temporary Direct Community Assistance/Cash Direct Assistance.

Since it was first implemented in the 1990s, the government’s social assistance program to the community has undergone various changes and has reached more beneficiaries. In 2005, the Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) program was introduced for
the first time as a substitute for the fuel subsidy. In order to reduce the negative impact of the Pandemic Covid-19 on the economy, the government through the Ministry of Social Affairs has implemented various social assistance programs such as increasing the number of beneficiaries in the Family Hope Program, non-cash assistance programs or the Basic Food Program by expanding the number of recipients from 15.2 million to 20 million families, as well as additional allocations for special food assistance assistance. The research this time was to find out the process of distributing Cash Direct Assistance subsidies in the Sirnajaya Village area, Sukabumi Regency, and to explain some of the obstacles and obstacles that were found when distributing the Social Aid funds to the community.

B. Research Method

The research method used by the author is descriptive qualitative, which describes the problem that will be examined for further analysis based on theory. In general, descriptive methods describe special situations and also reactions or relationships related to the problems that will be raised (Sugiyono, 2010). Researchers also want to examine a phenomenon that discusses the effectiveness of BLT Social Assistance for Communities Affected by Covid-19 in Sirnajaya Village, Cibadak District, Sukabumi Regency, West Java. The definition of research according to Sugiyono (2010) quantitative research methods can be interpreted as research methods based on the philosophy of positivism, used to examine certain populations or samples, data collection using research instruments, data analysis is quantitative/statistical, with the aim of testing hypotheses. has been established. The meaning of the verification method is to check whether it is true or not when it is explained to test a method with or without improvements that have been carried out elsewhere by overcoming problems similar to life.

The focus in this research is the effectiveness of Village Fund Cash Direct Assistance in Sirnajaya Village, Sukabumi Regency, with indicators: Timeliness, Accuracy in determining choices and Accuracy of Data Targets. The data sources consist of the results of observational interviews and documents and archives. The data analysis technique used is descriptive qualitative (non-statistical) data analysis technique. The data are grouped to make it easier to filter which data is needed and which data is not. The data collection that the author uses is literature study, namely tracing written sources regarding a particular phenomenon. and then the researchers conducted in-depth interviews with research informants. After the data is grouped, the author describes it in written form so that it is easy to understand. After that, conclusions are drawn from the data so that they can answer the main research problem.

C. Discussion

1. Effectiveness of Direct Village Fund Cash Assistance for People Affected by Covid 19

The social assistance distribution program is one of the government’s programs in reducing the burden of spending on poor families. In the distribution of aid, there
are often obstacles, namely the provision of assistance that is not right on target. Data management that still uses Microsoft Excel makes it difficult for some parties to make decisions (Rosadi, 2020). Sirnajaya Village is the result of the division of Warungkiara Village which was established in 1983 and has been stipulated in a Regional Regulation. In 2001 this village has started to build and align itself with other villages in Sukabumi Regency, starting from education, infrastructure, health, and also providing social assistance which is distributed to all poor communities.

The government stipulates a number of conditions for people who want to receive cash social assistance, including, (1) Prospective recipients are people who are included in the RT/RW data collection and are in the village (2) Prospective recipients are those who have lost their livelihood in the midst of the corona pandemic . (3) Prospective recipients are not registered as recipients of other social assistance (bansos) from the central government. Of course, prospective recipients of BLT from the Village Fund do not receive the Family Hope Program (PKH), Basic Food Cards, Basic Food Packages, Non-Cash Food Assistance (BPNT) to Pre-Employment Cards. (4) If the prospective recipient does not receive social assistance from another program, but has not been registered by the RT/RW, he can immediately inform the local village apparatus. (5) If the prospective beneficiary meets the requirements, but does not have a Population Identification Number (NIK) and Identity Card (KTP), they can still get assistance without having to make an ID card first, but the recipient must be domiciled in the village and write down his full address. If the recipient is registered and valid then BLT will be given in cash and non-cash. Non-cash is given by transfer to the recipient's bank account and cash can be contacted by village officials, state-owned banks or taken directly at the nearest post office. If you are one of the residents affected by COVID-19 and have met the requirements to receive the cash social assistance.

One of the indicators to assess effectiveness in the process of distributing cash transfers to village communities is timeliness. To carry out an activity or program, planning in determining the time is absolutely necessary. The time used properly will affect the effectiveness of a program in achieving its goals. To find out the timeliness of the distribution of direct cash assistance from village funds, it is first explained about the mechanism for collecting data on prospective BLT recipients of Village funds. Mechanisms and Flows of Data Collection for Candidates for BLT-Village Funds, can be determined by the village itself by following established criteria, carrying out data collection in a transparent and fair manner and can be legally accounted for. Villages can use village data as a reference, and use DTKS as a reference for PKH, BPNT recipients, as well as Department of Manpower data to identify recipients of Pre-Employment Card assistance. If the data on JPS recipients is not available, the village can use the recapitulation data of beneficiaries from the social safety net program assistant. The following is the mechanism for collecting data on poor and vulnerable families as BLT-Dana Desa recipients and determining the results of the data collection.

There are three problems in the distribution of social assistance that are often found in the field, among them, the problem of budget allocation in each Ministry is different. At the Ministry of Social Affairs there is no budget problem, but there is a budget allocation problem at the Ministry of Villages and Transmigration. Based on the latest data, the distribution of village funds has been received by 53,156 villages or 70.9 percent, the rest, 21,797 have not received funds. Then from 53,156 villages, village
funds that have been distributed as BLT to beneficiary families are 12,829 villages or about 17 percent. (2) Data problems, careful data collection is needed so as not to be misdirected so that distribution becomes a bit hampered. (3) Problems with the distribution system, so far the data that has been collected by RT/RW must obtain verification from the Regency/City Government before being lowered into data on recipients of social assistance. This has been corrected by eliminating the verification process to accelerate distribution. For this reason, it is necessary to have an over-evaluation in terms of distributing Social Assistance to people affected by the Pandemic Covid-19.

One of the initial steps in the distribution of Cash Direct Assistance is to make it run according to the procedures that have been set, among others, by preparing village data which includes village population profiles based on age, welfare, education, health, and disability, then the Village Head forms and assigns a letter of assignment to Village Volunteers and/or COVID-19 Task Force to collect data on poor families who are prospective recipients of BLT-Village Funds, then the number of data collectors is at least 3 people and if more must be an odd number, and finally the Village Head will collect data at the Neighborhood Association (RT) level or Rukun Warga (RW) using the data collection form in Appendix 2, or at the hamlet level using the Village Against COVID-19 application. All data collection activities must pay attention to health protocols, productivity is a measure of what is obtained with what is given, the use of time in development programs, namely the distribution of BLT village funds, in Sirnajaya village it was completed on time as specified in the plan (Sunardi & Lesmana, 2020).

The village fund is an on-budget budget allocation that is used directly to support efforts to reduce the impact of Covid-19 at the household and village levels. Some of the benefits of village funds include budget allocations available in the state revenue and expenditure budget. An action program to respond to the impact of covid 19 can be made, it can help minimize social and economic impacts. does not require a new system so that village officials can immediately move because they already understand the existing system. can be directed to build legality and credibility. village government through local problem solving, as well as the availability of monitoring, evaluation, and accountability systems that can be optimized to ensure accountability. Priority for the use of village funds is to be used, among others, as direct cash assistance for the poor in Cibadak village, Sukabumi district, especially those who are directly affected by the Pandemic Covid-19, in Cibadak village activities to handle the Pandemic Covid-19, village fund budgets that have been lowered in 2020 is stated in the regulation of the Minister of Finance Number 222 PMK 07 2020 regarding the management of Village Funds.

Direct Village Fund Cash Assistance (BLT-Dana Desa) is financial assistance to poor families in villages sourced from the Village Fund to reduce the impact of the Pandemic Covid-19. The value of the Village Fund BLT is IDR 600,000 per month for every poor family who meets the criteria and is given for three months worth IDR 300,000 every month for the next three months. The BLT-Dana Desa is tax-free. If the village needs exceed the maximum provisions that can be allocated by the village, the Village Head may submit a proposal to increase the allocation of Village Funds for Direct Cash Assistance to the Regent/Mayor. The proposal must be accompanied by
reasons for the addition of the allocation according to the decision of the Special Village Deliberation (Musdesus). The mechanism for distributing social assistance itself began in 2020, in March the Cibadak village head issued an aid of 600 thousand before the 6 months of distribution for the following month, the village will see the rules from the central government, the government will continue to see the development of the covid 19 pandemic problem, what will the problem be This has been completed, we as the village party will also stop providing social assistance in the form of money to the community, with the process of distributing BLT assistance, we invite parties from the sub-district directly to come down to witness the process of distributing this assistance.

Several physical and non-physical village fund management programs, especially in dealing with the Pandemic Covid-19 in the Sirnajaya Village area, ranging from distributing masks and hand sanitizers to all residents of Sirnajaya Village, making hand washing stations in every corner of the village, and check point posts for each village. people who will enter this Sirnajaya Village. In this post, the check point guards are from the Sirnajaya village community itself, so the program can be categorized as a labor-intensive program, because it uses workers who come from their own area. Each guard post consists of two people with a total of six access points to enter Sirnajaya Village. The success of the Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) in helping the welfare of the people affected by the Pandemic Covid-19 in Sirnajaya Village, Sukabumi Regency, was felt directly by the Village Treasurer, the BLT program has greatly helped the economy of the poor whose economy was also affected by the Pandemic Covid-19. However, it turns out that the use of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) is still being used inappropriately, external supervision. The implementation of social assistance policies for communities affected by COVID-19 which is being implemented by the government is also monitored by external agencies outside the government, one of which is the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) which has officially issued a statement that it will take action against government officials involved. in the misappropriation of social assistance for people affected by COVID-19 in which the KPK will demand the death penalty if it is proven that there are government officials who are corrupt in the aid funds (Prabowo, 2020).

2. Implementation of the Family of Hope Program in overcoming poverty during the Pandemic Covid-19

The standards and targets of the Family Hope Program (PKH) in Sirnajaya Village, Sukabumi Regency during the Covid-19 period were not much different from before, namely they were chosen from the lowest very poor community (Desil 1) who first had to be registered with the Social Welfare Integrated Data (DTKS). In addition, the PKH component criteria must also be met which consists of a Health Component (pregnant mothers and early childhood 0-6 years), an Education Component (SD, SMP, SMA) and a Social Welfare Component (elderly and severe disabilities). During the Covid-19 period, there were also several new policies related to the criteria for the PKH component. The first policy is the addition of the value of PKH assistance by 25% of the total aid receipts in a year which is distributed every month. Then, after the policy ends, it is continued with a new policy, namely adjustments to the calculation of the value of the restricted PKH component. acceptance in the same category.
The PKH program is different from direct cash assistance (BLT), because in PKH the requirements are more stringent, namely more on empowering human resources (HR), especially children. PKH is prioritized for children starting in the womb to school-age children who are unable to attend school, PKH has actually been implemented in various countries around the world with various program names. But conceptually, the original term was CCT, which was translated into conditional cash assistance. The Family Hope Program (PKH) is a program policy formulated by the Government to address the problem of population poverty in Indonesia. PKH is not a continuation of the direct cash assistance (BLT) subsidy program that was given to help poor households when the government adjusted the price of fuel oil (BBM). PKH is more intended as an effort to build a social protection system for the poor, not to make the poor lazy, but to make people more productive who will not depend on government assistance anymore.

An important factor that supports the running of the program is the role of the PKH mentoring team. In its implementation, each RTSM that receives aid funds is accompanied by a companion in the allocation of the funds that have been obtained so that they are right on target, namely for education and health. The role of PKH facilitators is very important because the majority of PKH fund recipients are RTSM who have a low level of education and therefore require mentoring facilities. The mentoring process carried out by PKH facilitators is a routine agenda that must be carried out as an effort to direct RTSM to be appropriate in the use of these aid funds, public policy is a choice made by the government in areas related to government tasks such as health, education, welfare, and others, the existence of the Hope Family Program is due to poverty in Indonesia and especially in the Sukabumi Regency area (Chasanah et al., 2021).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Recipients</th>
<th>Total population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2.146</td>
<td>106.876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>3.219</td>
<td>107.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>3.854</td>
<td>107.117</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Cibadak sub-district office, Sukabumi district

In its implementation, the implementation of policies that are practiced. The implementation of the Family Hope Program is also carried out so that the objectives of a policy can be implemented in a timely manner. PKH also uses existing facilities for its implementation. The general purpose of this PKH is to reduce the burden on poor households, especially during the Pandemic Covid-19 in the Cibadak District, Sukabumi Regency, besides that PKH is also expected to be able to reduce the number of poor people, break the chain of poverty and improving human resources.

In the implementation of the implementation of the family of hope program in Sukabumi Regency (a case study in Cibadak District), several things were found that would hinder the running of the program, including the not yet optimal PKH program in the field of education, there are still parents of students who are indifferent to the quality of their children’s education. only knowing about PKH funds, but not carrying out according to the procedures explained by the government, PKH money given for school needs during the Pandemic is only used to buy daily living necessities. Another
inhibiting factor is the absence of a permanent PKH office in the Sinarjaya village area, this has a major impact on the performance of PKH coordinators and assistants who have to move from place to place to become temporary offices.

During the current pandemic Covid-19, PKH Facilitators in the Cibadak District have a very important role in assisting PKH Beneficiary Families (KPM). This is because during the Pandemic Covid-19, in addition to concerns about hygiene and health problems, KPM PKH is also vulnerable to a significant economic downturn, so it is feared that it will disrupt the financial stability of the family. Therefore, the material presented by the PKH Facilitator during the Covid-19 period emphasized more on the financial management module and the health module. During the Covid-19 period, the Family Hope Program Companion (PKH) and Beneficiary Families (KPM) PKH received an additional budget such as a stimulus during the Covid-19 period. PKH facilitators, apart from receiving a basic salary, transport fees and other allowances, are also given additional money in the form of a salary subsidy which is disbursed in two stages. Meanwhile, the PKH KPM is given additional PKH funding assistance of 25% of the total revenue in the community a year. In addition, the Government also increased the budget to increase the quota for PKH recipients from the original 9.2 million KPM PKH to 10 million KPM PKH.

D. Conclusion

In the context of handling the impact of covid 19, especially the economic impact, the central government has provided direct cash assistance taken from village funds which is then distributed to the community through a predetermined mechanism and time. The prolonged pandemic condition certainly makes it difficult for the poor to meet their daily needs, as happened in the Sinarjaya village area, Sukabumi Regency, the distribution of Covid 19 BLT funds is one of the efforts to help ease the burden on the poor, according to the rules of the finance minister, the budget given is Rp. 600,000, - / Beneficiary Family / month for 3 months, but the assistance is limited, people who have received PKH assistance, basic food cards, and pre-employment cards are not allowed to receive BLT Covid 19.

When viewed from the effectiveness, the program is deemed appropriate time and follow the existing mechanism as recommended by the central government. In addition, the implementation of the Family Hope Program in Cibadak District, Sukabumi Regency during the Pandemic Covid-19 has been going well although there are still some shortcomings that must be immediately corrected in the implementation process. There are several problems with the distribution of Direct Cash Assistance in Sinarjaya Village, Sukabumi Regency, including the accuracy and updating of data, and there are still people who get double assistance, causing social jealousy among other village communities. Of course, the two aids from the government are focused on tackling the economy of the community, especially those who are really affected by the Pandemic Covid-19, there are certain differences and criteria between the two government aid programs, as has been carried out in Sinarjaya Village and in Cibadak District, Sukabumi Regency. West Java.
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