Government Management in Implementation of Health Protocol During Covid Pandemic in Wirosari District, Grobogan Regency, Indonesia

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Abstract

Implementing the covid-19 health protocol in Indonesia is difficult due to governance concerns. The government of Indonesia developed real-time implementation tactics for the country's health protocol. This study aims to examine the function of government management in executing the covid-19 pandemic health protocol in the Wirosari District. This study will also explore how the local administration in Wirosari District, Grobogan Regency, assists with the covid-19 pandemic. The descriptive qualitative study approach collects district government data from government officials, the task force for dealing with the covid-19 epidemic, and the Wirosari District population. The outcomes demonstrated that the government's implementation of health guidelines in the Wirosari district was a successful strategy. This study contributes to the corpus of knowledge by highlighting the importance of government management. This study demonstrates that local government support is reflected in the policies outlined in regulations, while budgetary support for activities is not explicitly reflected in the budget for implementing activities in the district. However, the district administrator must supervise and control the implementation of the covid-19 pandemic health protocol.

Introduction

In the Republic of Indonesia's system of government, the district position is part of the local administration that manages government affairs (Yuningsih, 2020). The head of the district exercises some of the regent's assigned authority and serves as the general government's coordinator. In phases, the district administrator fulfills the district's central government's responsibilities. With this position, the district has a vital role in the local government, both in terms of its duties and activities and its power as a leader in the district region. During the coronavirus 19 (Covid 19) pandemic, the district's responsibilities in coordinating public health practices are growing in importance. In instances where the element of regional government closest to the community is required to actively monitor, coordinate, and promote health protocols in their region. This pertains to the last condition phenomenon as of December 3, 2020, when there were 49 new cases each day, including two instances in Wirosari District (Amalia, 2022). Figure 1 depicts the reported covid cases in Indonesia.

In addition, as per the most recent live update statistics as of December 11, 2020, in Grobogan Regency, there were 1084 HIV-positive individuals, 107 deaths, 73 suspected cases, and 109 probable cases (Sumani, Apriono, Suryaning, & Nugraha, 2022). This occurs because there is still a lack of public understanding of the application of health standards during the Covid 19 pandemic, and community socialization efforts are not extensively observed. Districts also utilize work zones and urban villages, as urban areas are frequently the initial entry point for the propagation of the Covid-19 epidemic (Amalia, 2022). Districts have a crucial role in assisting with preventing and controlling the Covid-19 epidemic. This is
tied to the resulting health difficulties, economic effects, and societal concerns. In addition, certain regions have begun adopting new habits; it is hoped that the districts will assist in implementing them.

**Daily cases and deaths in Indonesia**

![Graph showing daily cases and deaths in Indonesia]

Source: Johns Hopkins University, data to 4 Jul

*Figure 1. Covid Cases in Indonesia*

Source: Johns Hopkins University, data to July 4. BBC

This study aims to examine the influence of government management in the execution of health protocols in Indonesia's Wirosari District. This research field is crucial since previous studies disregarded the function of government management in executing the covid-19 health regimen. In addition, this study is critical because it reveals the relationship between government administration and the execution of health protocols and stresses good government management. Existing studies in the corpus of literature lack information regarding the management of the government during a pandemic. The scope of this study is limited to government management in Indonesia. This study illustrates that the government must be prepared to handle future threats successfully.

**Literature Review**

Due to the community’s direct relationship with health issues, economic repercussions, and social issues, the district’s position is intimately tied to community involvement (Murad, 2022). Consequently, community participation is equally crucial. Through community participation, the district’s responsibility in supporting the prevention and control of health problems, economic repercussions, and social problems can be executed and the desired outcomes achieved (Fadli, 2022). Efforts to restrict the spread of Covid-19, for instance, will be ineffective if the community does not actively employ masks and keep a physical distance of 1-2 meters. The
The execution of government administration in the Wirosari District can be described as the four core management functions: planning, organizing, acting and controlling. The four fundamental functions serve as research themes for district-level government management studies. Government management is the primary determinant in a public administration's ability to fulfill predetermined goals with the existing facilities and infrastructure, including the organization and sources of finances, and with the resources at hand. For different services provided by local governments, the capacity and capability of local government organizations is a struggle of confidence (Purwanto, 2020). Maximum government apparatus performance is communication between local government activities and community requirements (Galanti, Guidetti, Mazzei, Zappalà, & Toscano, 2021; Parmar, 2018).

Effectively and efficiently carrying out programs and operations of the local apparatus is the performance of the government apparatus. To combat the spread of the Covid 19 pandemic, numerous laws limiting limits on communal activities were imposed between 2020 and June 2021. The published policies included the rules for Large-Scale Social Restrictions and the Implementation of Restrictions on Community Activities, as well as the most recent data for research in the field, namely Circular Number 360/1170/2021 concerning the Extension of the Implementation of Micro-Based Community Activity Restrictions and Optimizing the 2019 Corona Virus Disease Handling Posts at the Village Levels to Control the Spread of Corona Virus Disease 2019 in Grobogan Regency. At the community level in Wirosari District, the author’s June 2021 observations reveal that the Implementation of Restrictions on Community Activities policy is not implemented excessively strictly to community activities. Figure 2 depicts the growing number of covid-19 cases in Indonesia.

Since the World Health Organization (WHO) has proclaimed the Covid-19 virus to be a pandemic, there are currently no vaccines available (Avotra, 2021). The Indonesian government also said that coronavirus had become an artificial national emergency. The Covid 19 virus is an example of an illness caused by direct infection. This means the coronavirus can transmit straight from one person to another, bypassing animals and other vectors such as water, food, and others. Districts have a more strategic role in assisting the prevention and control of the Covid-19 epidemic since they are one of the local government bodies with the closest proximity to the district administrator is also responsible for delegating authority to coordinate community empowerment programs so that the public may comprehend the dangers of the Covid 19 pandemic and be more vigilant against the spread of diseases caused by Covid 19. (Purwanto, 2020). In addition, the district administrator is responsible for coordinating the adoption and enforcement of local legislation to control gathering areas for young people, such as cafes, booths, kiosks, and other locations where the Covid 19 disease is likely to spread (Purwanto, 2020).
community and have a significant role in developing and overseeing villages.

Due to the community's direct relationship with health issues, economic repercussions, and social issues, the district's position is intimately tied to community involvement (Seghers, Van Hoecke, Schotte, Opdenacker, & Boen, 2014). The district's role in supporting the prevention and control of health problems, economic consequences, and social problems can be realized and the desired outcomes attained through the community's participation. The district’s role is the embodiment of its responsibilities and functions. Vital is the necessity for a clear guideline that can be utilized by the district administrator and officials so that the implementation of district government management may play several roles in supporting the optimal prevention and control of Covid-19 and the development of new habits.

Moreover, the district apparatus plays a crucial role since, as the government's executor, it is relatively close to the community. Districts can become managers in facilitating, preventing, and controlling health problems, economic repercussions, and other social problems caused by Covid-19, including the execution of health protocol implementation regulations (Westcott, 2022). The specified function requires competent district management in the administration of district government. The district administrator must be charged with managing the Covid-19 epidemic in the district (Blondé et al., 2022). This task is assigned since the district head's jurisdiction is so extensive that it is commonly referred to as the "small local head.” The regent delegated specific authority to the district administrator for regional autonomy matters.

**Methodology**
The majority of studies assessing the role of government management utilize both primary and secondary data. For data gathering, this study employed a descriptive research approach. In this regard, the authors describe and explain the actual situation regarding the district government's management in supporting the implementation of health protocols during the Covid-19 pandemic in a systematic, factual, and accurate manner concerning the facts and the relationship between the studied phenomena. The data was collected using two distinct ways. Government officials, the task team, tasked with addressing the Covid-19 pandemic, and the Wirosari District community provided the initial primary data about implementing the health protocol. Then, secondary data, such as data gathered from reports, archives, and documents in the Wirosari District and other data pertinent to the research topics, are analyzed. The acquired data was studied by processing the data for analysis, reading the whole data set, performing a detailed analysis of the data, applying the coding process, is presented in a qualitative narrative/report, and being interpreted. All the data utilized in this study was obtained from credible sources to provide accurate information regarding the findings. In this manner, research professionals were consulted to comprehend and analyze the study’s data.

Findings

Government Management in the Implementation of Health Protocols during the Covid 19 Pandemic in Wirosari District

During the Covid 19 pandemic in Wirosari District, the district government implemented health protocols following several laws and regulations, namely the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government and the Indonesian Presidential Decree Number 11 of 2020 concerning the Determination of Public Health Emergency Corona Viruses Disease (Covid-19), followed by the implementation of several regulations. According to these laws, the administration of Covid 19 in the Wirosari District can be explained by the execution of district government management and assistance for the implementation of health protocols. In line with the rules of Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 17 of 2018 concerning Districts, he also performs attributive tasks (Rahnavardi, 2019). They have gone above the line of duty to deal with Covid-19 without being asked. Following President Jokowi’s aspirations, they are true leaders on the ground. The program for implementing health protocols in Grobogan Regency is not included in the administration's planning and implementation of the 2020 District government organization program, including the Wirosari District Government (Ahorsu et al., 2022; Asrori, Moch, & Firmansyah, 2022; Parmar, 2018; Westcott, 2022).

These responsibilities have been delegated to the district government by the local government. As a leader in the district’s work area and as the head of the Covid 19 pandemic task group in Wirosari District, the district
administrator has tremendous responsibility. Wirosari District Government plans for operational operations to enforce health protocols, such as district government directives, the growth in positive instances of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the increase in crowds who disregard health regulations. The district government then conducts planning and preparatory meetings with pertinent elements to carry out joint operations and socialization activities. Wirosari District Government created an organizational structure for the task force team, a particular post for handling the Covid-19 pandemic, and a WhatsApp group for the Covid 19 Pandemic Handling Team to consolidate activities and implementation and accelerate the flow of information regarding the Covid-19 pandemic in Wirosari District. In the meantime, execution is also proceeding successfully, as evidenced by the various implementation actions carried out by the District Government and allied elements in giving guidance, socialization, and instructions for managing the Covid 19 epidemic in Wirosari District. Then, regarding supervision or control, the Wirosari District Government conducted various supervisory operations with corresponding elements and presented a report to the Grobogan Regent for subsequent action, even though some monitoring operations have been poorly administered (Ahorsu et al., 2022; Rahnavardi, 2019). Table 1 displays the percentage of covid-19 cases successfully treated.

**Table 1. Covid-19 Treatment Cases**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Treatment Percentage of Covid-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Support From the Grobogan Regency Government In Handling The Covid 19 Pandemic In The Wirosari District Area**

As the administration of the Grobogan region, the Grobogan Regency Government has engaged in various measures to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. The Grobogan Regency Government strictly adheres to the central government’s directives and policies. Since the onset of the epidemic in Indonesia, the Grobogan Regency Government has developed central government policies from various regional policies (Afzal & Arshad, 2022; Sharma et al., 2022). These regulations include regional regulations, regional head regulations, circulars, and others. The Grobogan Regency Government does this to prevent the spread of the pandemic. The policy support implemented by the local government at the level of government offices, the community, and the business sector in Grobogan Regency initially took the form of regulations, namely the March 16, 2020 issuance of Grobogan Regent’s Instruction Number 1 of 2020 regarding Increased Awareness of the Risk of Corona Virus Disease (Covid 19) inspections. The Grobogan Regency Government released Grobogan Regent Regulation Number 48 of 2020 on August 19, 2020, to prevent and control Corona
Virus Disease 2019 in Grobogan Regency. Subsequently, the Grobogan Regent published numerous circulars to control the management of Covid-19 prevention, including numerous directives for socializing the application of the Covid-19 Pandemic health protocol. People can still pursue their interests.

However, activities that have the potential to be crowded or packed are supervised and monitored constantly. Most active outside the home continues to adhere to health protocols, such as wearing masks (Ahorsu et al., 2022; Hellfeldt, López-Romero, & Andershed, 2020; Molino, Cortese, & Ghislieri, 2020; Panisoara, Lazar, Panisoara, Chirca, & Ursu, 2020; Wu & Lee, 2020). Community activities in public and commercial areas continue to adhere to the execution of health procedures. However, some community members still fail to wear masks. The implementation of the health protocol in the Wirosari District continues to get budget allocation support, both explicitly for dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and generally for actions that support the Covid-19 epidemic's excesses. The budget maximum for the Wirosari District in 2021 is Rp 5,835,799,178, which includes 4 Programs, 7 Activities, and 20 Sub Activities. In the 2021 Regional Apparatus Program and Activity Changes, however, there are modifications to the programs and activities and the funding. The implementation of the sub-district budget for 2021 is Rp 3,904,910,999 based on the modification in the Renja Ceiling for 2021. Where there is a reduction of Rp. 5,835,799,178 in the budget from the previous year in the 2021 Determination Renja, a reduction of 32.3%. In 2021, the program and operations of regional officials in the Wirosari District will be altered. The adjustment increases the number of programs from 4 to 5. However, only 3 programs have a budget; the budgets for the other 2 programs have been deleted. In the interim, the number of activities and sub-activities changed to seven and eighteen sub-activities.

Changes in Grobogan Regency's programs, activities, and sub-activities, which resulted in a reduction of the General Allocation Fund by about 8 percent for Vaccination and Health Worker needs, had an impact on the composition of the 2021 Regency Budget. To combat the Covid-19 epidemic, the budgets of the government organizations of the regency were altered and decreased. In contrast, districts and villages responsible for regional operations did not get additional funding. The local element's operational budget for implementing health protocols is derived from the budget for daily office operations. For joint operations activities of the Civil Service Police Unit, the National Army, and the Republic of Indonesia Police, it can be utilized from the Coordination Program for Public Order and Order in Coordination Activities for Efforts to Organize Public Order and Security, particularly in the Synergy Sub-activities with the Indonesian National Police, the Indonesian National Armed Forces, and Vertical Agencies in the District Area. However, the budget is also utilized for district-level operations to arrange peace and public order unrelated to or unrelated to the Covid 19 outbreak. The budget revision directive does not affect the budget increase for implementing health protocols in regional
device organizations, particularly in the Wirosari District. In implementing programs and activities by government entities of the regency, there is no discernible support and budgetary aid relating to managing the Covid 19 epidemic.

On the other hand, according to the decree, the Head of the District as a leader in the sub-district area is included in handling the Covid-19 pandemic as the head of the Task Force for Handling Covid 19, which requires operational budget support. This is an impediment for government administration to supporting the management of health protocols. As a government body near the community, the district government plays a crucial role in preventing and controlling Covid 19 in the province. The district administration can conduct socialization programs to combat covid-19-related health issues, economic repercussions, and social problems. The district administration can also oversee the implementation of measures regarding covid-19’s adaption of new habits toward a more productive and secure community. This position embodies the responsibilities and operations of the district. As districts can play various roles in supporting the best prevention and control of covid-19 and the installation of new habit modifications, district administrators and workers must have access to precise recommendations. Regarding this help, it can be noted that the Grobogan Regency Government has provided good policy support, as the district government has communicated numerous rules and directives to the sub-district government for dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, this policy support is not followed by budgetary support for the subdistrict’s Covid-19 pandemic response. The sub-district government’s existing budget for deciding plans and activities was revised by 32.3%. Consequently, several programs, activities, and sub-activities are terminated. Table 2 displays the percentage of affected people who have been vaccinated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Covid-19 Vaccination</th>
<th>Vaccination Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion

According to the above definition, the participation of field components can assist local government programs in combating the Covid-19 epidemic. There is a need for the involvement of field elements since the distance between the district authority, and the community is too great (Ogunwole & Golden, 2020). This demonstrates that the district is not merely a provider of administrative services but also a regional government administrator. A District is an organizational unit in charge of a work area and its contents (Apollaro, Rodríguez, Herrera-Valenzuela, Hernández-
The district does not carry out particular government affairs, including necessary matters about essential and non-basic services and voluntary issues. The activities of the district government are directed by the district administrator, who is responsible for all population-related government affairs in the working area. The Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 23 of 2014 specifies the categories of government affairs held by the district head, including general government affairs, attributive authority, delegated authority, and other government responsibilities.

The 2021 District Government Organizational Program and Activity Documents do not address the management of the Covid-19 epidemic. Even though the District Government is responsible for various Covid-19-related responsibilities under its jurisdiction, this is a common misconception. The district administrator of Wirosari is obligated and accountable for managing the Covid 19 epidemic in his jurisdiction. The obligations and responsibilities of the apparatus are represented in the implementation of government actions that entail dangers if they are not carried out correctly, particularly the sub-district head, which can be fired or reassigned if he does not carry out his responsibilities effectively as has occurred in other regions, such as in the City of Parepare, where Ulfa was removed from his position as district head after leading the judicial operation to enforce Mayoral Regulations and the Covid-19 Task Force Circular regarding restrictions on community activity and trade, as well as the implementation of health protocols during Christmas and New Year 2020. The Regent of Malang, H. M. Sanusi, also conveyed a similar message, stating that he was prepared to censure the Head of Regency Apparatus Organizations and the District Head if they could not manage Covid-19.

Sanusi expressed the warning when analyzing activities for implementing Restrictions on Emergency Community Activities in several Malang City areas in July 2021. (Hill, 2021; Pan, Yang, Han, & Qi, 2021; Papwijitsil et al., 2021; Stenlund et al., 2021; Vanore, 2021). Delegation of power also necessitates the delegation of budgets associated with implementing programs and activities within the district's work area. To properly implement the delegation of authority to the district administrator, several conditions must be met, including the availability of the necessary budget, infrastructure, and personnel (Asrori et al., 2022; Avotra, 2021; Boonruang, 2022; Clary, Reinhart, Kim, & Smith, 2021; Rahman, Ether, & Islam, 2021). These requirements are essential because, implicitly or expressly, the district administrator generates obligations or responsibilities as the recipient of the delegation. It is evident that the district administrator has significant duties and responsibilities in executing government in his area, as he is responsible for all governmental matters regarding the population in his district (McKenna, Rogers, Walker, & Pope, 2020; Numpong et al., 2022; Rahmadani, Schaufeli, Stouten, Zhang, & Zulkarnain, 2020).
Conclusion

Wirosari District's district administration is addressing health protocols effectively. This is evidenced by the fact that the planning function is still incidental. The organizational function of activities is clear because it has duties and functions and is supported by the existence of a particular room for the Covid-19 Pandemic Handling Task Force, the implementation function is proceeding well with direction, socialization, and example, and the function supervision that is supported by standardization of the implementation of health protocols and the implementation of implementing Following the Grobogan Regency's level of vigilance, the district government's help in terms of policy support through various regulations and circulars is proceeding smoothly. The handling of the Covid-19 pandemic is incidental and is not included in the programs and activities of the Wirosari District government organization in 2021; therefore, it is not explicitly supported by the budget for executing actions in the subdistrict.

Implications

Theoretical Implications

The role of government management in Indonesian government implementations for pandemic-related concerns was not discussed in earlier research. Therefore, this work makes a substantial theoretical addition. This study demonstrates that the government administration must consider the crucial function of law enforcement and medical teams while implementing covid-19-related health procedures. According to the conclusions of this study, there is a substantial relationship between the management performance and the output of the government, and the government should adopt effective management policies to implement protocols for future catastrophes in the most efficient manner. In addition, this study would contribute to the body of knowledge by identifying the crucial relationship between distinct variables essential to address for effectively enhancing corporate performance. The government should collaborate with stakeholders to implement policies that improve company performance by integrating the health sector with management assistance. Future disaster-related cases must be dealt with realistically, and the local government must play a crucial role in implementing the pandemic health protocol state policy. This study's identification and data analysis will aid policymakers in formulating more effective strategies for achieving sustainable growth.

Practical Implications

Because this study aims to highlight various methods for the growth of government sector improvement in the implementation of health protocol during pandemics, it is crucial to consider the study's practical applications. It is essential to decide that ambiguity made it extremely
difficult to control the health protocol in the early stages of a disaster. However, this study demonstrates that competent government administration management can improve the health protocol by implementing the most effective crisis management strategies. This study illustrates that medical personnel should be trained and equipped to respond to any natural disaster. In this sense, these teams should focus on implementing the government's health-related strategies for effective strategy implementation. In addition, this study revealed that the government’s strategic management could present the most viable alternatives for sustainably attaining its goals. In light of this study, it is also clear that the obligation of the general public is to assist the government with implementing strategic management strategies.

**Future Directions**

Due to governance concerns, implementing the covid-19 health protocol in Indonesia is unquestionably difficult. In addition, the Indonesian government developed real-time implementation tactics for the country's health protocol. In this regard, the purpose of the study was to examine the role of government management in the Wirosari District's implementation of the covid-19 pandemic health protocol. Future research should determine the crucial role of civil society in implementing health protocols in Indonesia. Second, future research should evaluate the essential role of cultural acceptance in the application of health protocols in Indonesia. Thirdly, the prospective study should determine the crucial significance of perceived norms in implementing health protocols in Indonesia.

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