Opportunities and Challenges in Implementing the Covid-19 Response Village Programme

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Abstract

This study evaluates the implementation of the Covid-19 Response Village Programme in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village, Aceh Tamiang District. The results show that the programme implementation has not run optimally because there are obstacles in several aspects. Firstly, in terms of communication, there is a lack of clarity and consistency of information regarding the prevention and control of Covid-19 delivered by the implementing officers. Secondly, limited human resources have an impact on the ineffective implementation of the prevention programme in this village, and can be seen in several activities that are not carried out optimally. In addition, the lack of facilities and infrastructure, especially the unavailability of a special isolation room, causes people who are positive for Covid-19 to undergo independent isolation in their respective homes. Local community participation is also still low in several prevention activity programmes carried out. To improve programme implementation, corrective measures need to be taken, including the preparation of clearer and more consistent information, increasing human resources involved in the programme, and providing adequate facilities for handling Covid-19. It is expected that with these corrective measures, the implementation of the Covid-19 Response Village Programme can run more effectively in protecting public health and reducing the risk of virus transmission in the village area.

Key words: Implementation, Covid-19 Response Village Programme, Pulau Tiga Plantation Village

Introduction

Covid-19 was declared a world pandemic by WHO, and was designated by the Government of Indonesia as a non-natural disaster, in the form of a disease outbreak that needs to be overcome. This virus can spread in urban communities and village environments. (Putri et al., 2021; Suhermingtyas et al., 2021; Yasa, 2020). Then the Ministry of Villages took a number of steps in an effort to overcome the economic aspects of the affected communities and in an effort to break the chain of the spread of the Corona Virus so that it did not spread to the village environment. Namely, the issuance of Circular Letter of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration Number 8 of 2020 concerning Covid-19 Response Villages and Affirmation of Village Cash Intensive Work (Dirkareshza et al., 2021; Kusuma & A Waluddin, 2021).

These covid-19 volunteers consist of the entire Village Government, such as Village officials, Village Consultative Body (BPD), hamlet heads, RW heads, RT heads, village community mobilisation cadres (KPMD), village assistants are actively involved in accordance with their respective main tasks. (PAMBUDI, 2019; Pertwi & Ma’ruf, 2021; PRATIWI, 2022).

The spread of the covid-19 virus does not only occur in urban environments, but in the village environment there are also people who are exposed to the covid-19 virus. In 2020, in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village, there were 4 residents who experienced symptoms of covid-19 and 2 of them tested positive for covid-19. Then in 2021 there were 10 residents who tested positive for Covid-19, and 3 of them died. So that in 2021 Pulau Tiga Plantation Village was declared a Covid-19 orange zone village.

With this situation, the anxiety level of the village community is certainly very high, considering that the village environment is a tourist route from outside the region. Therefore, the role of the Village Government is needed by the community in efforts to prevent the covid-19 virus, both in providing education related to prevention that must be done, and also in economic countermeasures to help residents affected by the Covid-19 virus.

In accordance with the policy made by the Ministry of Villages as a form of countermeasure in the village environment, the countermeasure programme carried out by the Plantation Village Government of Pulau Tiga District...
Aceh Tamiang in preventing the spread of the covid-19 virus has been implemented since the policy was issued, then the programme is supported by funding through the allocation of village funds. The Covid-19 Response Village Programme implemented includes blocking the community entering the Pulau Tiga Plantation Village environment, spraying disinfectants and also providing hand washing stations in several public places as a form of health protocol.

Covid-19 Volunteer Officers also provide education about the covid-19 virus directly such as emphasising to use masks outside the home, and always maintain distance in public places. (Islami et al., 2021). The implementing officer of the Covid-19 Response Village Program in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village also conducted socialisation efforts by installing banners in public places containing information about the Covid-19 virus. This aims to increase the awareness and vigilance of the community in the village to always be aware of the presence of the Covid-19 virus and the importance of carrying out the necessary preventive measures.

Based on the observations made, it was found that the prevention programme was not routinely implemented, for example, the disinfectant spraying programme carried out in every resident's house was only carried out in a few places, not covering all hamlets in the village. Then in the guarding programme carried out at the village guard post, it was seen that there was no strict guarding of outsiders entering the village environment. Given that the environment of Pulau Tiga Plantation Village is a tourist attraction track, so that the high level of crowds of residents outside the area who enter the village environment.

And based on the results of interviews with local residents, the direct socialisation program provided was not delivered to all local residents. Socialisation is only done to village officials and community leaders. This has led to a lack of knowledge about prevention. The education provided by volunteer officers is only in the form of appeal banners posted in several places, so that residents who are still laymen or not good at reading, and also residents who are elderly do not get an understanding of the prevention programme carried out.

From the various problems that have been described, here the researcher is interested in conducting a study on "Implementation of the Covid-19 Response Village Programme, in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village, Aceh Tamiang Regency" as a form of prevention and control in the village community.

**Research Methods**

In the research conducted, the author used a Descriptive Qualitative approach. Sugiyono argues that qualitative research examines participants' perspectives with strategies that are interactive and flexible. (Sugiyono, 2019). Qualitative research is intended to understand social phenomena from the perspective of participants. Thus qualitative research is research used to research on natural object conditions where the researcher is the key instrument.

The location in this research is in the Plantation Village of Pulau Tiga, Kec. Tamiang Hulu, Kab. Aceh Tamiang. In this study, the research informants used purposive sampling technique, towards the selected activity programme implementers. The research informants were the Head of Tamiang Hulu Sub-District, the Head of the Covid-19 Task Force of Pulau Tiga Plantation Village, the Deputy Head of the Covid-19 Task Force, the Midwife of Pulau Tiga Plantation Village, local community leaders and people who have been exposed to the covid-19 virus.

The data sources taken are through primary data sources and secondary data sources, with data collection techniques through direct observation, in-depth interviews and documentation.

**Results and Discussion**

**Implementation of the Covid-19 Response Village Programme in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village, Aceh Tamiang District**

The covid-19 response village is a countermeasure policy programme established by the Ministry of Villages in an effort to prevent the spread of the covid-19 virus within the village community. This programme is based on the law of Circular Letter of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration Number 8 of 2020 concerning Covid-19 Response Villages and Affirmation of Village Cash Work Intensive.

In the process of implementing a policy programme, there are several variables and factors that determine the success of policy implementation. These variables are communication or clarity of information, resources or availability of resources in certain quantity and quality, disposition or attitude of programme implementers and bureaucratic structure or operating standards related to work procedures and procedures (Tachjian, 2006). Below will be discussed how these variables are implemented.

**Communication**

Communication according to Edward III (Sos, 2020; Winarno, 2016), Policy communication is a success in policy implementation that requires implementors to know what to do, where the goals and objectives of the policy must be transmitted to the target group. In the policy communication process, there are three important things that must be considered, namely transmission, clarity and consistency.

Communication or information provision by Covid-19 Task Force officers in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village is a critical aspect in the implementation of the Covid-19 Response Village Programme. The delivery of clear, accurate, and consistent information to the community is an important foundation in increasing community awareness and participation in efforts to prevent and control the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

However, the results show that the communication aspect is still not optimally implemented. There are several
obstacles that need to be overcome to improve the effectiveness of communication between Covid-19 Task Force officers and the community in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village. One of the main obstacles is the lack of clarity in the information conveyed, so the community may have difficulty in understanding the prevention measures and health protocols that must be followed.

In addition, consistency of information is also a challenge. Sometimes there are differences in the information provided by various Task Force officers, which can cause confusion and uncertainty among the community. This can reduce the level of public trust in prevention programmes and countermeasures undertaken by local governments.

To improve more effective communication, efforts are needed to improve the formulation of Covid-19 prevention and control messages that are simple, clear, and easily understood by the community. In addition, training for Covid-19 Task Force officers in effective communication techniques is also important. Timely and consistent information delivery will help strengthen community awareness in implementing health protocols and increase the level of participation in prevention programmes in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village.

The forms of communication provided by Covid-19 Task Force officers in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village include direct socialisation and education through Covid-19 prevention banners. Direct socialisation is carried out by providing explanations and information about health protocols and Covid-19 prevention measures to the community face-to-face. Meanwhile, education through Covid-19 prevention banners is carried out by displaying prevention messages and health protocol appeals on banners placed in strategic locations in the village.

However, the results showed that the education has not been carried out regularly in the community of Pulau Tiga Plantation Village. This has an impact on the community's level of understanding of the information provided. Irregularity in providing education can lead to a low level of public awareness of the importance of preventing Covid-19 and implementing the necessary health protocols.

To overcome this obstacle, it is necessary to plan and implement routine and periodic education in the community. Consistent and repeated delivery of information will help strengthen people's understanding of Covid-19 prevention efforts. In addition, the use of various communication media such as pamphlets, short videos, or social media can be an effective alternative in delivering prevention messages to the community. In addition, collaboration between Covid-19 Task Force officers with community leaders and village officials can also be improved. By involving community leaders and village officials as agents of prevention messaging, information can be more easily received and understood by the community, because the level of trust in local leaders is usually higher.

By making improvements in the form and frequency of communication, it is hoped that the community in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village can be better educated and realise the importance of playing an active role in preventing the spread of the Covid-19 virus. The effectiveness of prevention programmes at the village level can increase, which is expected to reduce the potential for virus transmission and protect the health of the community as a whole.

In the research results, it was found that direct socialisation in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village was not carried out in a sustainable manner through several stages. Direct socialisation was only conducted once in 2021, and was only attended by a few community leaders and representatives from the local community. This limitation resulted in a low level of community enthusiasm and trust in the prevention programme.

The continuity and recurrence of in-person socialisation is an important aspect in building community awareness and involvement in Covid-19 prevention efforts. By conducting repeated socialisation, the information conveyed will be more consolidated and more easily accepted by the community. In addition, involving all levels of society in socialisation will strengthen the sense of ownership of the prevention programme, so that people feel more involved and responsible for the health of themselves and others around them.

Limitations in community participation in socialisation can also be overcome by involving a diverse range of community elements, not just community leaders and representatives. Involving different community groups, such as youth, mothers, or religious groups, will help deliver prevention messages more inclusively and effectively. In addition, conducting socialisation in a more interactive manner can provide space for the community to ask questions, discuss, and share experiences related to Covid-19 prevention. Thus, the community will feel more involved and better understand the urgency of the importance of prevention and the active role that must be taken in the face of a pandemic.

In order to increase the effectiveness of the prevention programme in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village, it is necessary to increase the frequency of direct socialisation, involve various elements of the community, and conduct socialisation in a more interactive manner. With these steps, it is expected to build community enthusiasm and trust in carrying out the Covid-19 prevention programme on an ongoing basis.

**Resources**

Resources in the implementation of policy programmes play an important role, this is because the implementation of the programme will not be effective if the supporting sources are not available. In the context of resources, there are five important points, namely Human Resources (HR), information, authority, facilities and infrastructure and funding. (Sos, 2020). And in this study, researchers looked at the context of Human Resources (HR) and Infrastructure Facilities in the implementation of the Covid-19 Response Village programme in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village.

In the research results, researchers found that the implementation of the Covid-19 Response Village programme in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village experienced obstacles in the aspect of inadequate resources. There are limited human resources that affect the implementation of the programme. The lack of human resources involved in the Covid-19 volunteer team in this village has led to the ineffective implementation of the existing activity programme.

The limited number of Covid-19 volunteer teams is not proportional to the vast area of Pulau Tiga Plantation Village and the large number of people in the village. The impact of this limitation is limited manpower to deliver socialisation and education on health protocols, conduct health monitoring, and identify potential Covid-19 cases in the
village. To overcome this obstacle, efforts need to be made to strengthen the human resources involved in the Covid-19 volunteer team in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village. One way is to involve more community volunteers who are willing to participate in Covid-19 prevention and control efforts. In addition, training and capacity building for the volunteer team is also important to improve the quality of programme implementation.

The use of technology and information systems can also be a solution to optimise the utilisation of existing human resources. The use of apps or digital platforms can help in delivering information, tracking cases, and organising activities more efficiently.

In addition, collaboration with external parties, such as community organisations, educational institutions, or health institutions, can also be a strategy to obtain additional human resources and health experts. By strengthening the human resources involved in the implementation of the Covid-19 Response Village programme, it is expected that the implementation of programme activities in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village can run more effectively and have a positive impact on efforts to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus in the region.

The research found that the implementation of the Covid-19 prevention programme in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village experienced obstacles related to the lack of adequate supporting facilities and infrastructure. One aspect of concern is the absence of a special isolation room. This condition causes people who test positive for Covid-19 to be required to carry out independent isolation in their respective homes.

The unavailability of adequate special isolation rooms can have a negative impact on the handling of Covid-19 cases in the village. Self-isolation in their respective homes can increase the risk of transmission of the virus to family members and the surrounding community. In addition, it can also complicate the process of monitoring and optimal medical treatment for individuals undergoing isolation.

To improve efforts in handling Covid-19, it is necessary to take steps to improve supporting facilities and infrastructure. Village governments and related parties can coordinate to provide special isolation rooms that meet health standards and can accommodate patients safely. Adequate isolation rooms will help minimise the risk of transmission within the family and community, as well as facilitate monitoring of patient health by medical staff.

In addition, the implementation of strict health protocols in the isolation room is also important to ensure the safety of patients and health workers. The provision of adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) for medical personnel and education to the patient's family regarding the procedures for treatment and management of medical waste also need to be considered.

In addition to the provision of isolation rooms, the implementation of remote monitoring and care programmes (telemedicine) can be an effective alternative in supporting individuals undergoing self-isolation at home. Through telemedicine, health workers can conduct consultations and health monitoring virtually, so as to provide timely medical assistance without having to be in physical contact with the patient. By making improvements in supporting facilities and infrastructure, it is hoped that the prevention programme in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village can run more effectively and help in reducing the spread of the Covid-19 virus in the community.

Disposition

According to Edward III (Agustino, 2016) Disposition refers to the characteristics that are closely related to the implementor of the policy or programme, the important characters possessed by the implementor are honesty, commitment and democracy. Implementors who have high commitment and honesty will always survive among the obstacles encountered in the programme or policy. Furthermore, Ramdhani (2017) states that implementation is influenced by two variables, namely: 1. Policy content variables include: Interests affected by the policy, types of benefits to be generated, degree of change desired, position of policy makers, (who) implements the program and the resources deployed. 2. Policy environment variables, including: how much power, the strategic interests of the actors involved in implementing the policy, the characteristics of the institutions and regimes in power, the level of compliance and responsiveness of the target group (Perizaldi & Fazlina, 2020). And in this study, researchers will look at the attitude of the implementer as seen from the level of intensity of the response or response of the implementer of the Covid-19 Response Village programme in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village.

In the implementation carried out by the Covid-19 Task Force officers of Pulau Tiga Plantation Village, as part of the implementor in coordination with the Regional Government and the Central Government, it can be seen from the efforts made by the covid-19 task force officers in carrying out their duties, the covid-19 task force team cooperates with various layers of other agencies in efforts to tackle covid-19 in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village.

So it can be concluded that the level of intensity of the response or response of program implementers in providing health services to village communities exposed to the covid-19 virus is quite good, where with the existing limitations the covid-19 officers continue to carry out examinations and treatment in collaboration with the health services of the Puskesmas of Tamiang Hulu sub-district.

Bureaucratic Structure

Bureaucratic structure according to Edwards III (Agustino, 2016; Suaib et al., 2022) is a working mechanism established to manage the implementation of a policy. He emphasised the need for a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that regulates the flow of work between implementers, especially if the implementation of the programme involves more than one institution.

Bureaucratic structure is important in policy implementation or programme implementation. This bureaucratic structure includes two important things, the first is the mechanism and structure of the implementing organisation itself. (Tachjan, 2006). The researcher's findings during the field research show that the Covid-19 Response Village programme in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village has been implemented in accordance with the established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). This compliance can be seen from the results of an interview conducted with Mr Jumani, who is the Head of the
Covid-19 Task Force Team in the village. Mr Jumani stated that this programme had been implemented based on the SOPs set by the central government.

The Covid-19 Response Village Programme in this village has four pillars of activities that are the focus of its implementation. The four pillars of activity include:

1. **Prevention:** Includes socialisation and education activities to the community regarding health protocols, the importance of maintaining hygiene, and procedures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. In addition, this programme may also include the distribution of masks, hand sanitisers, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to the community.

2. **Handling:** Focuses on efforts to detect and treat Covid-19 cases in the village. The Covid-19 Task Force team can conduct routine health monitoring, identify and isolate potentially infected individuals, and provide medical assistance to those in need.

3. **Coaching:** Involves coaching and supervision of individuals undergoing self-isolation at home. Coaching may include virtual medical consultations, delivery of health messages, and psychological guidance for patients and families.

4. **Supporting Activities:** These are activities that support and strengthen the implementation of the main programme. These include coordination with relevant agencies, training of medical personnel and volunteers, and management of data and information related to Covid-19.

With the implementation of the programme based on the central SOP and supported by the four pillars of activities, it is expected that Covid-19 prevention and control efforts in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village can run in a structured and effective manner. This is expected to help protect public health and minimise the spread of the virus in the village area.

**Constraints in the Implementation of the Covid-19 Response Village Programme in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village, Aceh Tamiang District**

The level of success in implementing policy programmes is greatly influenced by elements that support or hinder. Obstacles in the implementation of policy programmes can come from within or outside the Government environment. The constraints in the implementation of the Covid-19 Response Village programme in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village are as follows:

**Internal Constraints**

Internal constraints are obstacles or circumstances that limit, hinder or prevent achieving goals that come from within an institution or agency in carrying out a policy programme that has been made and determined together. Based on the findings in the field, the internal obstacles in running the Covid-19 Response Village programme are the lack of human resources in implementing this programme, but more or less helped by the local security forces. And in terms of existing facilities and infrastructure, it is very inadequate so that it cannot meet the needs of the people of Pulau Tiga Plantation Village.

As stated by Mr Jumani as the Head of the Covid-19 Task Force Team in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village, he said that the existing facilities and infrastructure are not sufficient to meet the needs of the many people of Pulau Tiga Plantation Village. However, in order for the implementation of this programme to continue, we are trying to go through other efforts in implementing this programme. And in terms of human resources, we are greatly helped by the security forces and health officials in this area, which helps us to control and provide understanding to the people of Pulau Tiga Plantation Village.

**External Constraints**

External constraints are obstacles or conditions that limit, hinder or prevent achieving goals that come from outside the environment of an institution or agency in implementing a policy programme that has been made and determined together. External constraints related to the implementation of the Covid-19 Response Village programme carried out in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village are the lack of participation from some people to participate in various Covid-19 prevention and control activities.

Community participation is the participation of the community in every activity carried out by the Covid-19 Task Force officers and other agencies in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village, be it in socialisation activities and other prevention activities that provide benefits to the village community. So that the impact of the lack of community participation causes the ineffectiveness of the programmes run by officers related to the prevention and control of the covid-19 virus.

**Conclusion**

Based on all the results that have been presented, it can be concluded that the implementation of the Covid-19 Response Village Programme in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village, Aceh Tamiang District faces a number of obstacles that need to be overcome to increase its effectiveness.

1. **Communication:** Communication and delivery of information on Covid-19 prevention to the public needs to be improved to be clearer, more consistent, and easier to understand. Lack of clarity and consistency of information may make it difficult for the community to understand the preventive measures to be followed.

2. **Resources:** There are limited human resources in implementing the prevention programme in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village. The lack of Covid-19 volunteer teams is not proportional to the size of the village area and the number of residents. In addition, the lack of facilities and infrastructure, especially isolation rooms, is also an obstacle in handling Covid-19 cases in the village.

3. **Community Participation:** Local community participation in prevention activity programmes is low. Efforts are needed to involve various elements of the community, including youth, mothers, and religious groups, to make
4. Programme Implementation: Although the programme is implemented based on existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), there are still obstacles in its implementation. The unsustainable repetition of socialisation and the lack of community attendance in some stages of the socialisation can affect the enthusiasm and trust of the community in the prevention programme.

5. Bureaucracy: Programme implementation is supported by an established bureaucratic structure. The use of SOPs in accordance with the central SOP has supported programme implementation with a focus on prevention, handling, coaching, and supporting activities. However, efforts to strengthen human resources and supporting infrastructure must continue to be improved. Therefore, to increase the effectiveness of the Covid-19 Response Village Programme in Pulau Tiga Plantation Village, improvements need to be made in clearer and more consistent communication, increasing human resources and adequate infrastructure, and increasing participation.

Referensi