

## **The Role of Community Participation in Supporting Tomohon City Regional Regulation No. 1 of 2021**

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### **Abstract**

This research aims to evaluate community participation in efforts to support the Regional Regulation of Tomohon City No. 1 of 2021 concerning Increasing Discipline and Law Enforcement of Health Protocols in Preventing and Controlling Covid-19. This study uses a qualitative method. The research results show that Regional Regulation of Tomohon City no. 1 of 2021 has been implemented well by the government in terms of socialization, implementation and supervision. However, community participation is still relatively low. In fact, the city of Tomohon is often included in the red zone for the spread of the Covid-19 outbreak. This proves that the level of community participation is relatively low. The influencing factors are 1) lack of understanding and awareness, 2) spread of incorrect information (hoaxes), 3) distrust of the government, 4) pandemic fatigue, 5) social and economic factors.

### **Keywords:**

community participation; Tomohon City Regional Regulation No. 1 of 2021; Covid-19

### **Introduction**

Covid-19 has shaken the world profoundly and has had significant consequences for all aspects of life. As a global pandemic, this virus has affected the health, economy, social and psychology of people throughout the world (Iko, 2022). Various broad collaborative efforts to control the spread of the virus continue to be carried out by various countries, including Indonesia.

Overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic has become a global challenge that requires collaborative efforts from all parties, including society. Active and conscious participation of the public is essential in fighting the spread of the virus and protecting public health. In this context, community participation refers to the involvement, contribution and involvement of individuals and groups in various activities, policies and preventive measures aimed at overcoming the pandemic (Afni, 2020).

As a collaborative effort to fight this virus, of course an active role is needed from various parties, especially the community itself. Community participation is an important element in determining the success of efforts to control the spread of this virus. In order to break the chain of spread and transmission of this virus, social & physical distancing is implemented by the government.

Community participation is the creation of opportunities that enable community members to participate actively and gain benefits from the activities in which they participate. Community participation in question is not coercive, but truly awareness of the community itself to participate (Sigalingging & Warjio, 2014).

Community participation in overcoming COVID-19 is not just the responsibility of the government or health institutions alone, but is a collaboration that involves the entire community. When the community is actively involved, they become important partners in planning, implementing and evaluating response programs (Sutisna, 2013). The public also has a key role in disseminating accurate information, engaging communities, and encouraging the behavioral changes needed to limit the spread of the virus.

Community participation in overcoming COVID-19 is not only important in facing health challenges, but also in overcoming the social, economic and psychological impacts caused by the pandemic. Communities can help protect vulnerable groups, provide social support, and respond to emerging needs at the local level. Apart from that, community participation also creates space for initiatives and creative solutions in dealing with continually changing situations. By involving the community in the policy implementation process, it can be more inclusive and more effective in overcoming problems and meeting community needs better (Masengi et al., 2023a)

Covid-19 which spread globally in 2019 had a big effect on various aspects of human life. All countries in the world are feeling the impact, including Indonesia. In 2020, the spread of the Covid-19 outbreak could not be stopped and spread throughout all provinces, districts/cities, even to remote areas, including Tomohon City.

At the beginning of May 2020, Tomohon City entered the red zone and made Tomohon residents anxious (Ikanubun, 2020). In July 2020, Tomohon City entered the Red Zone along with 57 regencies/cities in Indonesia. Data on Covid-19 patients as of July 18 2020, increased from 80 patients to 134 patients (Polakitan, 2020). Towards the end of 2020, the city of Tomohon again entered the red zone where the patients came from family clusters (Dede, 2020).

The Covid-19 epidemic in Tomohon City grew quickly and widely at the beginning of 2021, prompting the city to publicly impose Community Activity Restrictions (PPKM) in accordance with the Minister of Home Affairs's orders no. 1 of 2021. The Tomohon City Government simultaneously published Regional Regulation No. 1 of 2021 Concerning Increasing Discipline and Law Enforcement of Health Protocols in the Prevention and Control of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Sarese et al., 2022).

According to Article 3 of this Regional Regulation, its goals are to: a) stop the spread of Covid-19 in the neighborhood; b) increase public adherence to the application of health protocols in the prevention and control of Covid-19; and c) have a deterrent effect on those who disobey

the health protocols in the prevention and control of Covid-19 (Tomohon, 2021).

In order to implement this regional regulatory policy, the Tomohon City administration continues to collaborate with the Covid-19 Task Force, Police, Military Forces Army, Civil Service Police Unit (Satpol PP), Health Workers, and all other government officials down to the lowest level.

The administration continues to conduct various communication efforts in relation to the implementation of Tomohon City Regional Regulation No. 1 of 2021. On the Tomohon city government's official website page <https://tomohon.go.id> you can see various outreach efforts that have been carried out by the Tomohon government.

The Tomohon government has carried out outreach several times, starting from the city, sub-district and sub-district government levels. However, based on observations, many people apparently do not know this regional regulation. Or there are people who already know about this regional regulation but don't yet understand it.

Numerous types of infractions of these laws were discovered based on the actual facts of the situation. Many individuals lack the discipline to comprehend the rules outlined in the Regional Regulation. Many people decide to wear masks that do not cover their noses while they are out of the house or in public places, failing to maintain their distance. The Task Force Team also did not vigorously enforce sanctions for violators of health procedure.

Based on this, of course it is ironic that the government is trying to continue to promote this regional regulation as an effort to overcome Covid-19, but on the other hand, community participation is very lacking or does not care, even though this concerns living together as citizens who live together.

Santoso (2010) in (Masengi et al., 2023) say that a government or organization's policy is a set of objectives it hopes to accomplish in the public interest. All facets of society must abide by and carry out Tomohon City Regional Regulation No. 1 of 2021 as a policy in order for it to be successful.

Even though regional regulations have been established that regulate increasing discipline, prevention and control of Covid-19, the city of Tomohon in 2021 has been included in the medium zone and red zone several times.

Therefore, based on this phenomenon, this research was conducted with the aim of evaluating community participation in efforts to overcome Covid-19 in Tomohon City, as well as analyzing what factors hinder community participation, especially in terms of supporting the implementation of Tomohon City Regional Regulation No. 1 of 2021.

## **Methods**

This research method uses descriptive qualitative methods. Moleong (2013) states that qualitative research is research that tries to understand the phenomena of the experience of research objects, such as behavior, perception, motivation, action, and so on, holistically and through descriptions in the form of words and language in certain natural contexts and using natural methods (Moleong, 2013).

The focus of this research is to evaluate the participation of the people of Tomohon City in efforts to overcome Covid-19 in the 2021-2022 period. The indicators used in this research to evaluate community participation according to Mardikanto & Soebianto (2013: 82) in [13] are 1) Involvement in Planning, 2) Involvement in Implementation, 3) Involvement in Monitoring and Evaluation, and 4) Involvement in Benefit Taking.

The research sample consisted of 10 people consisting of Tomohon city residents, the task force (Covid Task Force), health workers and government officials. To collect data, researchers carried out observations, interviews and document studies.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Evaluation of Community Participation in Efforts to Overcome Covid-19 in Tomohon City**

#### **1. Involvement in Planning**

The Regional Regulation Number 1 of 2021 has been created and made public by the Tomohon City DPRD. Article 3 of this Regional Regulation states that its objectives are to: a) stop the spread of Covid-19 in the community; b) increase public compliance with the application of health protocols for the prevention and control of Covid-19; and c) have a deterrent effect on those who disobey these protocols.

According to the Decree of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia Number HK.01.07/MENKES/382/2020 regarding Health Protocols for the Community in Public Places and Facilities in the Context of Preventing and Controlling Corona Virus Disease 2019, it is stated in section In the introduction to point B that the Health Protocol seeks to support local efforts in Covid-19 prevention and control.

Consequently, the role of public policy can be understood as a collection of actions performed or not taken by the government with the intention of achieving a certain objective to address public concerns or in the public interest (Dilapanga et al., 2023). Program implementation guidelines are usually contained in regulations or statutory regulations issued by the government so that they are binding and binding (Ariani & Sumbawa, 2017).

Planning cannot be separated from socialization (Akbar et al., 2018). Prior to the adoption

of Regional Regulation Number 1 of 2021, many outreach programs had been made to all corners of society in Tomohon City based on the study's findings. Massive outreach initiatives are being carried out by the municipal government, the sub-district government, health professionals, Satpol PP, and the Tomohon municipal Covid Task Force. Because there are restrictions on community activities, outreach efforts involving the entire community are carried out in several ways, namely through loudspeakers in each sub-district/district, as well as through electronic media, including via the Tomohon City official website <https://tomohon.go.id>, through social media, or through newspapers.

Through this outreach effort, it is hoped that the public can understand the contents of the regulations and play an active role in efforts to implement the policies that have been created within the framework of the common goal of preventing and controlling Covid-19 in the Tomohon city area. However, the city of Tomohon is always included in the medium zone and red zone during the 2020-2022 Covid-19 period. Based on the data presented in the introduction, the number of patients infected with this virus was found in Tomohon City.

This demonstrates that there is a problem with participation or the community's function. According to the findings of the interviews, many people were unaware of the details of Tomohon City Regional Regulation No. 1 of 2021. The community is aware of the numerous outreach initiatives the government and the Covid-19 Task Force are carrying out in Tomohon City, but the majority of people don't comprehend them or even care.

After analysis, this community reaction was caused by people's boredom from this pandemic period which limited all their social activities. The impact of restrictions imposed by the government affects their psychology and economy.

Based on the explanation above, community participation is essential in handling the Covid-19 problem which has an impact on various aspects of life. Sagita in (Mahmudah & Imelda, 2021) states that there are 3 reasons why community participation is very important, namely 1) The community understands their needs and provides information in the form of a description of the conditions they face. 2) In terms of trust, the community believes that the program will be successful if they participate and play a role, own and care about the process and results; 3) Participation is a substantive form of democracy.

## **2. Involvement in Implementation**

Even though Article 8 of the Tomohon City Regional Regulation No. 1 of 2021 explicitly stipulates that everyone is required to increase health protocol discipline and law enforcement in an effort to avoid and manage COVID-19:

- a. When outside the house, wear a mask that covers the nose, mouth, and chin, unless you are

- eating or drinking;
- b. Wash your hands frequently;
  - c. Keep your physical distance from others;
  - d. Never shake hands with a stranger.;
  - e. Maintain body endurance by implementing PHBS;
  - f. Has permission from the Subdistrict COVID-19 Handling Task Force in terms of carrying out activities that have the potential to involve a minimum of 50 (fifty) people at the same time;
  - g. Take a health examination according to the method determined by the authorized agency in the event that symptoms of COVID-19 infection are found and/or based on tracing results, have close contact with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19;
  - h. Participate in medical treatment at a facility designated by the regional government for:
    - people confirmed positive for COVID-19 with symptoms; or
    - People who are confirmed positive for COVID-19 without symptoms but based on information from the Public Health Center must be treated at a health service facility;
  - i. Carry out self-quarantine/isolation for 14 (fourteen) days or until the results of a health examination stating that they are free from COVID-19 from the authorized agency for people who are:
    - based on tracing results, has close contact with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19; and/or
    - confirmed positive for COVID-19 but without symptoms.

Based on the research results, there are several findings, including people not wearing masks when leaving the house, not keeping their distance when gathering, there are still people holding parties, young people still often get together, people who have symptoms do not want to go to the health center. or health facilities, and there are people who do not want to be quarantined even though they have been confirmed positive for Covid-19.

Based on these findings, researchers can conclude the reason why Tomohon city is always a red zone, namely because community participation is very lacking. People do not comply with regulations. Public awareness of the dangers of Covid-19 is still very minimal. Therefore, it is not surprising that the spread of Covid-19 in Tomohon City is very fast. The community does not want to be actively involved in efforts to implement Regional Regulations that have been made. Even though it is clear that the purpose of this Regional Regulation is for the common good, namely to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Thus, community involvement in the implementation of this Regional Regulation is still very lacking. Even though Regional Regulations are public policies that must be obeyed by the entire community. Implementation of public policy requires symbiotic interactions, processes and activities between the public and the government so that it is expected to respond to dynamics, demands and public interests. Nugroho in (Sururi, 2016) states that on the other hand, public policy is a product that fights for the common good and whose philosophy requires public participation from start to finish.

### **3. Involvement in Monitoring and Evaluation**

The regional government is largely responsible for overseeing actions to improve discipline and law enforcement of health protocols in order to prevent and control COVID-19, as stated in article 13 of Tomohon City Regional Regulation Number 1 of 2021. It explains that: (1) Regional Government oversees initiatives to strengthen discipline and law enforcement (2) The types of supervision mentioned in paragraph (1) include routine review, receiving public complaints, detecting and combating bogus news, and monitoring.

However, of course the government cannot work alone. There needs to be a role for the community as a government partner to successfully overcome the Covid-19 outbreak in Tomohon City. Supervision certainly requires participation from the community. All elements of society must be involved in monitoring the implementation of this Regional Regulation.

Based on the research results, government officials, namely sub-district, sub-district and city officials, together with the Covid-19 Task Force, have carried out maximum surveillance efforts in Tomohon City, including by carrying out direct monitoring in the field of community activities, and also carrying out monitoring and clarification fake news (hoaxes) circulating in society so as not to cause unrest. Every time there is fake news regarding Covid-19, government officials and the Covid-19 Task Force will quickly clarify.

However, ironically, it is the people themselves who are the actors in spreading fake news about Covid-19. Untrue news circulating in society via social media is spread very quickly without filtering and verifying the truth of the information.

It can also be seen that in several areas in Tomohon City, there are many people who violate Health Protocols, namely frequently gathering together, not wearing masks, coughing carelessly without masks, but the people seem indifferent. As a society that lives together, people should be able to reprimand each other and monitor incidents like this for the common good without having to wait for officers to come to reprimand or take action.

Thus, it can be concluded that the role of the community in carrying out supervisory functions in the context of containing Covid-19 in Tomohon City is still lacking. In supporting the

success of a public policy program, there needs to be a role for community participation. This is in line with the opinion of Situmorang (1994) in (Bahtiar, 2017) that to realize objective and responsible supervision there must be a role for community participation and effective and efficient government management.

#### **4. Involvement in Benefit Taking**

Community involvement in taking benefits is a very important element. Community involvement in benefit-taking refers to the process in which communities are actively involved in identifying, planning, implementing and benefiting from a policy aimed at improving their welfare.

Benefits of implementing Tomohon City Regional Regulation No. 1 of 2021 is certainly none other than to prevent the public from the danger of spreading the Covid-19 virus. For this reason, the community must be actively involved without any coercion in its implementation. Because this concerns mutual interests.

Based on research results, public awareness of this is still very lacking. There are many violations of health protocols in the field. The results of interviews which show that people are bored with the situation and therefore violate government regulations in their activities show that people do not understand the importance of the unity of perception, action and discipline in efforts to implement these regional regulations in the context of preventing and dealing with Covid-19.

Community involvement should not be understood only as voluntary financial or other material support from the community, but rather as community participation in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating activities carried out for the benefit of the community itself [20]. In this case, society can prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus by working together to create a healthy and safe society.

#### **5. Factors Inhibiting Community Participation in Efforts to Overcome Covid-19 in Tomohon City**

Based on research results and analysis results, the weak participation of Tomohon city residents in efforts to control Covid-19 is influenced by the following factors:

- a. Lack of public understanding and awareness. Even though Tomohon City Regional Regulation no. 1 of 2021 has been published, socialized and implemented, but the public does not understand and does not have a high level of awareness to carry out health protocols in accordance with the contents of the regulation.

- b. Dissemination of incorrect information (hoax). The incorrect information that circulated in society during the pandemic greatly influenced people's perceptions and actions regarding understanding of Covid-19 itself. Without verifying the truth of the hoaxes circulating, the public participates in spreading hoax news. This can hinder participation because people don't know which information to trust and what actions to take.
- c. Distrust of the Government. Distrust of the government or health authorities can also be a limiting factor. If the public feels that the information provided is inaccurate or not transparent, they may not comply with the guidelines provided and participate less in response efforts.
- d. Pandemic Fatigue. The COVID-19 pandemic has been going on for quite a long time, and pandemic fatigue can hinder community participation. Some people may feel emotionally, physically, or mentally exhausted due to the burden imposed by the pandemic, and this may affect their motivation to participate in efforts.
- e. Social and Economic Factors. Some communities face social and economic barriers that make it difficult for them to participate in the response to Covid-19. For example, there are people from low economic backgrounds who have difficulty purchasing health protocol equipment, such as masks. Economic difficulties make some people continue to carry out activities to earn money even though there are PPKM or PSBB regulations.

## **Conclusion**

According to the findings of the research and analysis discussed above, Tomohon City's community participation in efforts to combat Covid-19 is still severely lacking as indicated by indicators of involvement in planning, implementation, monitoring, and benefit-taking. The Tomohon City region has frequently been listed as being in the Red Zone for the Covid-19 outbreak's active spread. The Civil Service Police Unit (Satpol PP) and healthcare professionals have made a variety of efforts to interact, supervise, and impose sanctions in accordance with Tomohon City Regional Regulation No. 1 of 2021. Despite this, the government has worked with the Covid-19 Task Force, the Police, and Military Forces Army.

The factors that influence the lack of community participation in efforts to overcome Covid-19 in Tomohon City are a) lack of understanding and awareness, b) spread of incorrect information (hoaxes), c) Distrust of the government, d) Pandemic fatigue, e) social and economic factors. Suggestions for the people of Tomohon city that as good citizens they should comply with and support public policies made by the state, in this case the government, for the common good.

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