ABSTRACT

Objectives: The aim of this research is to determine the evaluation of the COVID-19 pandemic policy in South Sulawesi.

Methods: The method used is a qualitative research method with a type of field research. The location of this research is South Sulawesi, while the participants in this research are two people each, policymakers related to COVID-19 in South Sulawesi and the general public.

Results: The results of this research conclude that the level of coordination between agencies is a key factor in the success of policy implementation. The involvement of local governments, health institutions, the private sector, and the community greatly influences the efficiency and effectiveness of pandemic response measures. Limited resources, especially budget and health facilities, are challenges that must be overcome. There is a need to optimize resource allocation to meet diverse needs, including economic support and strengthening the health system. The economic impact of the pandemic varies across various sectors and levels of society. There needs to be a focused strategy to help the most affected groups, such as MSMEs, as well as long-term solutions to mitigate the long-term economic impact.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the evaluation of the COVID-19 pandemic policy in South Sulawesi underscores the importance of coordination among agencies, resource optimization, and targeted strategies to address the diverse impacts of the pandemic. This research highlights the need for proactive measures to support affected sectors and strengthen the overall resilience of the health and economic systems in the region.

Keywords: evaluation, policy, COVID-19 pandemic.

Resultados: Os resultados desta pesquisa concluem que o nível de coordenação entre as agências é um fator chave para o sucesso da implementação de políticas. O envolvimento dos governos locais, das instituições de saúde, do sector privado e da comunidade influencia grandemente a eficiência e a eficácia das medidas de resposta à pandemia. Os recursos limitados, especialmente o orçamento e as instalações de saúde, são desafios que devem ser superados. É necessário otimizar a atribuição de recursos para satisfazer as diversas necessidades, incluindo o apoio económico e o reforço do sistema de saúde. O impacto económico da pandemia varia consoante os vários sectores e níveis da sociedade. É necessário que exista uma estratégia focalizada para ajudar os grupos mais afetados, como as MIPYME, bem como soluções a longo prazo para mitigar o impacto económico a longo prazo.

Conclusão: Em conclusão, a avaliação da política contra a pandemia de COVID-19 em Sulawesi do Sul destaca a importância da coordenação entre as agências, da otimização dos recursos e das estratégias específicas para enfrentar os diversos impactos da pandemia. Esta investigação destaca a necessidade de medidas pró-ativas para apoiar os sectores afetados e reforçar a resiliência global dos sistemas de saúde e económicos na região.

1 INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic that has hit the world since 2019 has forced governments in various countries, including Indonesia, to take a number of policies to overcome the health and economic impacts caused. In Indonesia, several key policies have been implemented, including Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) and the Implementation of Community Activity Restrictions (PPKM). One of the significant efforts taken by the Indonesian government is PPKM (Implementation of Restrictions on Community Activities), which is a series of steps to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus by involving restrictions on community movement and activities as well as setting operational hours for various sectors. Therefore, evaluating the effectiveness of PPKM is crucial in assessing the success of this strategy in dealing with the pandemic.

Apart from that, according to Hafni et al. (2021), in dealing with COVID-19, the government also launched a social assistance and COVID-19 assistance program as a step to help people who were economically affected by the pandemic. The evaluation of the distribution and effectiveness of this aid is to ensure that it really reaches the targets that require it. Apart from these programs, the government's role in managing this crisis also includes efforts in the health sector, including increasing the capacity of the health system, vaccine distribution, and public education. regarding health protocols. So, of course, an evaluation of the government's response to these aspects will provide an overview of the readiness and sustainability of the health system in the future (Suparman, 2021).

With a comprehensive evaluation of policies for handling COVID-19, the positive impact, according to Nissa et al. (2020), is that the government can map out the corrective steps needed to deal with similar situations. In addition, involving community participation in the evaluation process can increase government transparency and accountability in managing health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Claudia (2022), one thing that needs to be evaluated is the PPKM policy in South Sulawesi. In South Sulawesi itself, the PPKM policy was instructed directly by the Acting Governor of South Sulawesi, Andi Sudirman Sulaiman, one of which is important to evaluate, namely the Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) policy and the Implementation of Community Activity Restrictions (PPKM) in South Sulawesi. This evaluation plays an important role in understanding the impacts, successes, and challenges faced in efforts to overcome the spread of COVID-19 in the region. South Sulawesi, like many other regions in Indonesia, has experienced significant consequences.
both in terms of health and the economy during this pandemic. Therefore, the evaluation not only covers the effectiveness of PPKM measures but also aspects such as inter-agency coordination, community participation, and policy implementation at the local level.

Rani & Safarinda (2020) Evaluation of the PPKM policy in South Sulawesi. Firstly, the evaluation must involve an analysis of the effectiveness of PPKM in South Sulawesi. This includes assessing the level of public compliance with the restrictions imposed, the implementation of health protocols in various sectors, as well as their impact on reducing COVID-19 cases. The question is whether PPKM has succeeded in slowing the spread of the virus and reducing the number of infections, as well as the extent to which these measures have benefited the health system and society as a whole. Both evaluations must also consider involvement and coordination between various stakeholders in South Sulawesi. This includes collaboration between local governments, the private sector, community organizations, and health institutions. The extent to which this collaboration runs well can influence the effectiveness of PPKM implementation. The active participation of various parties in supporting government policies can form a strong foundation for overcoming the pandemic.

Apart from that, the third aspect of this evaluation is the economic impact of the PPKM policy in South Sulawesi. Restrictive measures have the potential to impose additional economic burdens on society, especially on directly affected sectors such as tourism, trade, and small and medium industries. Evaluations must consider economic welfare policies implemented by the government, including financial assistance to affected businesses and workers (Maksum & Arifin, 2022). Continuing with this, the level of community compliance with health protocols is also a determining factor in evaluating PPKM policies in South Sulawesi. Analysis can include the extent to which people comply with wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and washing hands. Apart from that, it is also necessary to pay attention to factors that influence the level of compliance, such as public education, the availability of hygiene facilities, and government communication (Dewi & Sunarta, 2021).

The four health infrastructure readiness factors in South Sulawesi are crucial aspects of evaluating PPKM policies. This includes the availability of health facilities, hospital capacity, and vaccine distribution and accessibility. It is necessary to evaluate the extent to which local governments can overcome the surge in COVID-19 cases and provide adequate care for patients. An evaluation is incomplete without considering
community participation in implementing PPKM policies. The extent to which the community is involved in efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, voice problems, and support government policies is an important factor. It is necessary to assess the level of community understanding regarding policies and their compliance with the regulations in force (Nasution, 2021).

The evaluation of the COVID-19 pandemic policy must be directed at identifying lessons that can be taken from the implementation of PPKM (Bahruddin & Mujahidin, 2018). What works can be a model for other regions, while the identified challenges and shortcomings can help improve policies in the future. Besides that, in-depth reflection is needed regarding effective strategies and steps that need to be improved to face similar situations in the future (Nisa, 2023). Furthermore, openness and effective communication from local governments are key elements in the evaluation; how information is conveyed to the public, the extent of transparency in policy implementation, and the response to public feedback are aspects that need to be evaluated. Media involvement can also play an important role in conveying accurate information and providing better understanding to the public (Febrilaty & Mistia, 2021).

Besides that, according to Astariyani and Sudiarawan (2021), evaluations need to consider how local governments handle clusters of virus spread and whether the steps taken can effectively isolate and control the spread of the virus. In addition, variations in local situations and specific needs in various regions of South Sulawesi need to be taken into account in policy formulation and implementation. The evaluation must also cover long-term strategies and the sustainability of efforts to prevent and handle COVID-19 in South Sulawesi. Apart from that, it is also necessary to evaluate the provision of direct cash assistance to the community and economic actors in South Sulawesi; this is a crucial aspect in understanding the impact of economic welfare policies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is hoped that this assistance will provide real assistance to those who are economically affected by large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) and the implementation of community activity restrictions (PPKM) (Astariyani & Sudiarawan, 2021). According to Nurkamiden (2021), several aspects need to be evaluated in this context: First of all, the evaluation must examine the extent to which direct cash assistance is provided to the right recipients. It is important to assess selection criteria and aid distribution mechanisms to ensure that aid actually reaches communities and economic actors in need, including...
those in the most vulnerable layers of society. The evaluation needs to examine whether the amount of assistance provided is in accordance with the needs of the community and economic actors in South Sulawesi. It is necessary to consider whether the assistance is sufficient to meet basic needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter, and whether the amount of assistance reflects the level of economic impact experienced by the recipient.

The opinion of Nursini et al. (2022) The aid distribution mechanism must be evaluated to ensure efficiency and fairness in its distribution. The extent to which local governments, together with related institutions, can carry out distribution in a timely and accurate manner needs to be considered. Apart from that, the security and accuracy of data on aid recipients is also an important factor that needs to be evaluated. It is hoped that direct cash assistance can improve the welfare of the affected community and economic actors. Evaluation should include an assessment of the extent to which the assistance achieves the desired welfare goals, such as reducing poverty levels, increasing purchasing power, and providing food security guarantees.

The COVID-19 pandemic creates a dynamic situation, and people's needs may change over time. The evaluation must consider the extent to which the provision of assistance can respond to the changing conditions and needs of the community in South Sulawesi. Flexibility in the design of aid programs can be key to their success. Aspects of transparency and accountability in the implementation of aid programs need to be examined. The extent to which information related to aid programs can be accessed by the general public, as well as the monitoring and accountability mechanisms implemented by local governments, can be indicators of openness and accountability (Sulistyawati et al., 2021). According to Zuhairoh & Rosadi (2020), direct cash assistance distributed by the government has a positive impact on micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which are often the backbone of the local economy. The evaluation should assess the extent to which the assistance supports the sustainability of MSMEs, reduces the risk of bankruptcy, and provides an impetus for economic recovery. The role of the private sector in supporting the distribution and implementation of aid programs needs to be evaluated. The extent to which cooperation between local governments and the private sector can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of aid programs needs to be taken into consideration.

Evaluations should not only focus on economic aspects but also consider the social and psychological impact of providing assistance. The extent to which aid can provide a
sense of security and psychological stability to recipients also needs to be evaluated. Finally, the evaluation should identify lessons learned from the implementation of the aid program. What works can become the basis for future improvements, both in the design of aid programs and in increasing the capacity of their implementation. By carrying out a comprehensive evaluation of the provision of direct cash assistance to the community and economic actors in South Sulawesi, the government can ensure that the economic welfare efforts carried out really have a positive and beneficial impact on people in need during the pandemic crisis. Based on the background above, the researcher was finally interested in conducting research entitled Evaluation of the COVID-19 pandemic policy in South Sulawesi.

2 METHOD

The research method used in this research is a qualitative research method with a type of field research, which is one of the approaches commonly used in research. This method aims to understand the phenomenon being researched from the perspective of participants or research subjects, with a focus on meaning, interpretation, and social context (Iswadi et al., 2023). In qualitative field research, researchers are directly involved in field situations, such as observing, interviewing, or interacting with participants. Researchers collect research data directly from the source, either through direct observation, in-depth interviews, field notes, or audio/video recordings. The data obtained is then analyzed in depth and interpreted to reveal emerging patterns, themes, or meanings. The steps in this research include:

1. Participant observation: Researchers are directly involved in field situations, observing and recording relevant information about context, behavior, and social interactions.
2. Identify research problems: Determine the research topic and identify the problem or research question you want to answer, then explain the research objectives clearly and specifically.
3. Literature review: Researchers conducted a literature review to understand previous research relevant to the topic of evaluating the COVID-19 pandemic policy in South Sulawesi.
4. Design the research: The researcher creates a research design that suits the research objectives and questions. Then the researcher determines the research
method to be used, such as a survey, observation, interview, experiment, or a combination of these methods.

5. In-depth interviews: Researchers conducted structured interviews with research participants, gaining a deeper understanding of the perspectives of the research subjects, namely 1 person who took policy regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in South Sulawesi and 1 person from the general public and their interpretation of the phenomenon under study.

6. Data analysis: After completing data collection, researchers conduct data analysis to answer research questions. By using qualitative analysis methods.

7. Interpretation of results: After analyzing the data, the researcher interprets the research results. Identify key findings and relate them back to the research question. Then explain the implications of the findings and draw logical and cohesive conclusions.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of observations and interviews with policymakers regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in South Sulawesi, the findings were: Based on the results of observations and interviews with policymakers regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in South Sulawesi, findings emerged that various factors and dynamics influenced policy implementation and responses to the pandemic at the regional level. These findings provide an overview of the challenges, successes, and lessons that can be learned to improve pandemic response strategies in the future. One of the main findings is the level of coordination between agencies, which is a determining factor in the success of policy implementation. Good coordination between local governments, health institutions, the private sector, and community organizations contributes to the efficiency and effectiveness of mitigation measures. However, in some cases, there are obstacles to coordination that affect the smooth implementation of policies. Another finding is that there are limited resources, especially in terms of budget and health facilities. Policymakers in South Sulawesi face challenges in allocating resources optimally to meet various needs, including direct cash assistance, economic prosperity, and strengthening the health system. This limitation is a concern in developing responsive and effective policies.
It was found that the level of public understanding and compliance with health protocols was greatly influenced by education and communication efforts. Providing clear and accurate information and effective education campaigns can shape public behavior and increase awareness of the importance of compliance with policies to prevent the spread of the virus. Policymakers in South Sulawesi noted that the economic impact of the pandemic varied across various sectors. Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are often more vulnerable to economic pressures, while certain sectors can experience positive developments. Evaluation of these diverse economic impacts can provide insights for designing more focused and targeted assistance. Another finding is that there is uncertainty regarding the future development of the pandemic. Policymakers in South Sulawesi face the challenge of planning long-term policies while remaining responsive to changing situations. Developing scenarios and contingency plans is key to increasing preparedness to face potential new waves or changes in pandemic dynamics. It was found that community empowerment played an important role in the response to the pandemic. Active community involvement in supporting policies, reporting cases, and maintaining personal health can increase the effectiveness of prevention and control efforts.

Policymakers in South Sulawesi routinely evaluate the policies that have been implemented. The results of this evaluation are used to adjust and improve existing policies. This approach reflects an adaptive response to the dynamics of the pandemic and helps overcome problems that arise during policy implementation. The findings show inequalities in access to health services and the impact of the pandemic. Some community groups, such as those living in remote or low-income areas, may face greater barriers to access. Evaluation of these inequalities can provide a basis for improving inclusive policies. Policymakers in South Sulawesi highlighted the importance of preparedness in dealing with clusters of virus spread at the local level. Success in detecting, isolating, and containing local clusters can be key to minimizing the risk of further spread. The findings show that the involvement of the private sector can make a positive contribution to supporting policies and efforts to deal with the pandemic. Partnerships with the private sector can increase the capacity, resources, and synergies needed to face the challenges of the pandemic.

Based on these findings, policymakers in South Sulawesi have a valuable basis for information to continue optimizing policies for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.
Using the findings of this evaluation can help develop strategies that are more effective, responsive, and sustainable for dealing with the dynamics of the pandemic in the future. Based on the results of interviews with people affected by the Governor of South Sulawesi's policies regarding COVID-19, a number of findings were obtained that reflect their views and direct experiences from their perspective. These findings provide a more complete picture of how the policy affects people’s daily lives and the extent to which the policy has had the desired impact.

The public said that there was limited access to information regarding COVID-19 policies. Several respondents stated that information regarding health protocols, policy changes, and available assistance was not well disseminated. These limitations can affect the level of public understanding and compliance with the policies implemented. Many respondents said that they experienced a significant economic impact due to the restrictions on activities and mobility that were implemented. Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are among those most affected, with a significant decline in income. Some interviews also highlighted difficulties in finding work and long-term economic uncertainty. Several respondents expressed challenges in accessing health services. Restrictions on movement and the closure of a number of health facilities have made it difficult for some people to obtain necessary medical services. This can have an impact on handling non-Covid-19 cases and public health in general. Numerous interviews emphasized the community's sense of job and livelihood uncertainty. Workers working in sectors directly affected by restrictions, such as tourism and entertainment, expressed concerns about the sustainability of their jobs. This high level of uncertainty creates a need for stronger assistance and support from the government.

Public perception of government policy is one of the important findings. Some respondents expressed understanding and support for measures to prevent the spread of the virus, while others may feel the policies are too strict or inadequate. This difference in perception reflects the complexity of achieving community consensus regarding COVID-19 policy. Many respondents expressed hope for further assistance and support from the government. Requests for direct cash assistance, basic food packages, or other economic incentives were highlighted in the interviews. This shows that there is a deep need in the community that needs to be addressed to help them through this difficult time. Findings also show an impact on people's psychological well-being. Social isolation, concerns about personal and family health, and economic pressures can contribute to
increased levels of stress and anxiety. Mental and social support are important things to consider in efforts to overcome the pandemic. Several respondents voiced hope for the vaccination program and saw it as a solution to end the pandemic. However, there are also groups of people who may still have doubts or need further education regarding the safety and benefits of vaccination.

The findings show that there is a greater need for educational support, especially for children facing distance learning. Several respondents also expressed obstacles to internet access that affected their ability to access information and educational services effectively (Mukit et al., 2022). Most respondents appreciated community involvement in implementing health policies and protocols. Collective efforts to protect oneself and others are considered an important part of the collective response to the pandemic. The results of interviews with the community provide a better understanding of how the policies implemented by the Governor of South Sulawesi affect their daily lives. Evaluation of these findings can provide a more holistic view of assessing policy effectiveness and designing strategies that are more inclusive and responsive to affected communities. The results of the field findings above are in accordance with policy evaluation theory, which, according to its definition, is a systematic approach to assessing and analyzing the success, effectiveness, and impact of a policy. Several basic principles can be identified that form the basis of the policy evaluation process (Simanjorang et al., 2021). These principles include:

1. **Evaluation Objectives**: Policy evaluations must have clear and specific objectives. This includes determining success parameters, performance indicators, and targets to be achieved by a policy.
2. **Evaluation Criteria**: Determining evaluation criteria is an important step in assessing whether the policy has achieved its objectives. These criteria include aspects such as efficiency, effectiveness, fairness, and sustainability.
3. **Research Methods**: Choosing the right research method greatly influences the validity and reliability of the evaluation. Methods such as surveys, interviews, statistical data analysis, and case studies may be used, depending on the complexity and nature of the policy being evaluated.
4. **Participation of Related Parties**: Involving related parties, be they stakeholders, the community, or policymakers, can provide a more complete perspective and strengthen the acceptability of evaluation results.
5. Contextual Analysis: Policy evaluation must consider the context in which the policy is implemented. Factors such as culture, politics, and economics can influence evaluation results.

6. Long-Term Impact: Policy evaluations should not only focus on short-term impacts but also consider long-term impacts to understand the policy's contribution to sustainable social and economic change.

7. Recommendations for Improvement: The evaluation should produce concrete recommendations for improvement that can be implemented to improve the policy in the future.

8. Openness and Accountability: Evaluation results should be transparent and accountable. Opening information to the public and identifying policy weaknesses and successes can strengthen government accountability.

9. Community Involvement: Community involvement in the evaluation process can increase community understanding of the policy and ensure that the policy reflects community needs and expectations.

10. Iterative and responsive: The evaluation process should be iterative and responsive to changing conditions. Continuous evaluation allows policy adjustments to remain relevant and effective over time (Samad et al., 2021).

**4 CONCLUSION**

Based on findings from observations, interviews with policymakers, and interactions with communities affected by the South Sulawesi Governor's policies regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, several conclusions can be drawn that the level of coordination between agencies is a key factor in the success of policy implementation. The involvement of local governments, health institutions, the private sector, and the community greatly influences the efficiency and effectiveness of pandemic response measures. Limited resources, especially budget and health facilities, are challenges that must be overcome. There is a need to optimize resource allocation to meet diverse needs, including economic support and strengthening the health system. The economic impact of the pandemic varies across various sectors and levels of society. There needs to be a focused strategy to help the most affected groups, such as MSMEs, as well as long-term solutions to mitigate the long-term economic impact. Limited access to information related to COVID-19 policies is an issue that needs attention. Further efforts are needed.
to ensure information is conveyed clearly, accurately, and evenly to the public to increase understanding and compliance with policies.
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