

IMPLEMENTATION OF COVID-19 DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE (BLT) IN SERDANG BEDAGAI DISTRICT

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Abstract

It is important to know what the problems are in implementing the Covid-19 BLT Implementation. Because we can use the problems that occur as a strategy if almost the same problem reappears. The data collection method used in this research is qualitative. Collecting data in this study used the implementation model theory of Marilee S. Grindle. There are several variables in the process of determining success in implementation, including interests involved, types of benefits, degree of change involved, location of decision-making, program implementers, and resources involved. The results of the discussion and research that has been carried out, the results obtained are the Implementation of Direct Cash Assistance Covid - 19 in Serdang Bedagai Regency. Based on the discussion at the beginning, it can be concluded that the Covid-19 BLT in Pematang Pelintahan Village in 2020 is determined by several aspects, namely: Interests Affected, where many families have not received assistance at all. Type of Benefit, using BLT money will not necessarily be prosperous because the money you get is only enough for your daily needs. Desired Degree of Change, where the village office has the wrong target in registering people who are eligible for assistance. Location of Decision Making, where the accuracy of the target starts right because it goes through processes and procedures. Program Executors, by the education they have Bachelor's degrees so their ability to identify and solve problems quickly. Resources Involved, there are facilities and infrastructure support in the form of buildings, motorbikes, tables, chairs, and office stationery.

Keywords: Implementation, Direct Cash Assistance, Covid-19, Serdang Bedagai

INTRODUCTION

The social and economic impacts caused by the Covid-19 pandemic have greatly affected the level of community welfare. This is due to restrictions on economic activity which at a macro level reduce economic growth and cause many people to lose their jobs so which has the potential to increase the number of poor people (Purba et al., 2018 ; Ingtyas et al., 2021). Direct Cash Assistance comes from village fund allocations in the Village Budget (APBDesa) which will be provided by the government to people who have lost their livelihoods due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In the socio-economic life of the people they are considered effective and efficient because they help in improving the community's economy people use these funds, not for the long term or not for business capital but for their daily needs. To overcome this problem, the government has issued a policy, namely creating a program to assist the poor who have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the programs is Village Fund Direct Cash Assistance (Rudy, 2020 ; Siahaan et al., 2022).

In PDTT Village Minister Regulation Number 11 of 2019 changed to PDTT Village Minister Regulation Number 6 of 2020 concerning the Use of Village Funds which among other things relates to the provision of Direct Cash Assistance sourced from Village Funds (BLT-Village Funds). Article 8A it is mentioned 3 points namely :

1. Non-natural disasters as referred to in Article 8 paragraph (1) are disasters that occur as a result of extraordinary events such as the spread of diseases that threaten and/or affect the community on a large scale or a large scale.
2. Handling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as referred to in paragraph (1) can be in the form of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) to poor families in the Village by statutory provisions.
3. The poor families referred to in paragraph (2) who receive BLT are families that have lost their livelihood or job, have not been recorded as having received the Family Hope Program (PKH), Non-Cash Food Assistance (BPNT), and pre-employment cards, as well as those who have family members who are prone to chronic/chronic illness.

Table 1. Amount of Village Funds that can be allocated for BLT

Use of Village Funds for each Village	>>	Maximum amount of DD for BLT-Village Funds
< Rp 800 Million	>>	Maximum 25% of the DD received by each village
Rp. 800 Juta s.d. Rp.1,2 M		Maximum 30% of the DD received by each village
Rp. 1,2 M		Maximum 35% of the DD received by each village

By the Regulation of the Minister of Village PD TT No. 6 of 2020, the amount of BLT Village Funds for each family is Rp. 600,000 every month, and budgeted for needs for 3 months, the distribution of Direct Cash Assistance began in April 2020. Some of the problems that occurred in the distribution of Direct Cash Assistance in Pematang Pelintahan Village, Sei Rampah District included:

1. There is a discrepancy between the data on BLT recipients and the reality of the economic conditions of the BLT recipient communities. Those who are categorized as able to receive BLT benefits while those who cannot afford do not receive this assistance.
2. Not on time in the BLT disbursement schedule. People always receive BLT money, not on time.

In general, people's poverty is in a condition that is completely limited at this time, both in accessibility to factors of production, business opportunities, education, and other living facilities. The government during the Covid-19 era was very much needed in a society's economy which was expected to have a positive role in the form of a moral obligation to help realize people's welfare by ensuring a balance between private and social interests to keep the wheels of the economy on the right track. Based on the description of the problem, it is important to conduct research on the Implementation of Direct Cash Assistance for Covid 19.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Policy Implementation

The view of Taufiqurokhman (2014) is that policy implementation is an action taken either by individuals/officials or government or private groups directed at achieving the goals outlined in policy decisions. Likewise Grindle (2014) that actual policy implementation is not only concerned with the mechanism for translating political decisions into routine procedures through bureaucratic channels, but more than that, it concerns issues of conflict, decisions and who gets from them. result of a policy. Policy implementation is an important stage in the overall policy structure consisting of an individual, officials and groups of government or private parties, through a process that these groups have agreed on because through this procedure the overall policy process can be influenced by the level of achievement of a goal or not. The variables referred to by both include: 1) interests affected, 2) types of benefits, 3) degree of expected change, 4) location of decision-making, 5) program implementers, and 6) resources involved.

2. Bantuan Langsung Tunai

Direct cash assistance or BLT is one of the social protection programs for the poor in the form of a special compensation program (crash program) or a social safety net program. The purpose of BLT is:

1. Helping the poor so that they can still meet their basic needs.
2. Preventing a decrease in the level of welfare of the poor due to economic difficulties.
3. Increasing shared social responsibility.

Minister of Finance Regulation No. 40 of 2020, BLT is the provision of cash to poor or incapable families in villages originating from the Village Fund to reduce the economic impact due of the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. For the Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) program to become effective and efficient assistance, several steps are needed, namely:

- 1) Good and systematic management of the distribution of funds, to achieve the goal of the actual BLT program, namely for the welfare of low-income people.
- 2) Monitoring of the distribution of BLT funds is necessary because many errors have been found that have prevented the BLT program from proceeding according to plan.

- 3) Direct cash assistance is not provided in the form of cash which is given only to the community because it is feared that the community will only depend on BLT, so direct financial assistance is realized in the form of financial assistance for businesses so that the funds open up new job opportunities for the community so they do not become people who are lazy because they only depend on aid besides that it can reduce the unemployment rate (Rudi, 2020).

RESEARCH METHODS

The data collection method in this study uses qualitative. According to Burhan Bungin (2008), research is a way or way to get back the solution to all the problems raised. The research location that the writer will examine is Pematang Pelintahan Village, Sei Rampah District, Serdang Bedagai Regency. Research informants are people or actors who provide the information needed during the research process. To determine the informants in this study, the researcher chose a purposive sampling technique. Research informants can be divided into two, namely the main informants and supporting informants. In the purposive sampling technique, the researcher selects informants intending to determine the appropriate informants with the focus of the research which is carried out deliberately without being contrived to obtain the information needed in the research according to considerations. In this study, data collection techniques were carried out by searching and collecting data in the form of primary data collection techniques and secondary data collection techniques.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Interests Affected

Interests that are affected are a policy regarding the extent to which the interests of the target group or target group are in the content of the policy. The interesting factor that is influenced by this can be seen from the information that the author managed to collect in the field related to the process of implementing Direct Cash Assistance in Pematang Pelintahan Village, Sei Rampah sub-district. The Village Head responded that in the field there were still many families affected by Covid-19 and economically weak, but got no help. The explanation above is reinforced by a statement from the Village Secretary which states that if this happens, they will divert it to other assistance, such as assistance from BNI banks, POS, BNPT (Non-Cash Food Assistance), and PKH (Hopeful Family Recipients) so that people can get assistance. other than this BLT.

There is also a view from the General Affairs Committee that some have received PKH (Family Hope Recipients), BNPT (Non-Cash Food Assistance), BRI and BNI have also received assistance. So the function of holding the BLT is that we are looking for the rest of the poor who have not received any assistance at all." The impact in improving the welfare of the community for recipients of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) does not directly impact on increasing the purchasing power of the poor, but the program has brought benefits to them. As stated by the village head at the Pematang Pelintahan Village Office, namely the impact of this assistance, the community has to use BLT money to buy daily needs during the pandemic, because if it is used as business capital, there will not be enough money.

Meanwhile, a statement from the Village Secretary stated that we are grateful because people can still get BLT to help their lives during this Covid-19 period. After all, many are unemployed, so many people expect this assistance. The Head of Services and Welfare Section made a similar statement, stating that assistance is very helpful for the community, especially for the poor. Other references regarding the impact in improving community welfare for recipients of direct cash assistance, namely: BLT money of Rp. 600,000 every 1 month cannot improve the welfare of the poor. Because the money is only enough to buy daily needs during a pandemic like this, the use of direct cash assistance is groceries. This shows that cash transfers are not yet efficient in meeting the needs of the poor because the main priority of cash transfers is still basic needs. However, direct cash assistance has enormous benefits for the survival of the poor, especially in meeting their needs (Hardwidiandyah, 2011). From the above information, it can be understood that regarding data verification The data verification process must be carried out in all villages/kelurahans because the purpose of data verification is to improve the RTS database. This data can be used not only for BLT but also for other poverty programs.

2. Benefit Type

Types of Benefits seek to show or explain that in a policy there must be several types of benefits that show the positive impact generated by the implementation of the policy to be implemented (Wahidah et al., 2022 ; Fitri & Purba, 2022). In this type of benefit factor, we will look at the various phenomena observed by the author in the field related to the process of implementing Direct Cash Assistance in Pematang Pelintahan Village.

a) Can the community feel a better/prosperous life after receiving and using the BLT money?

After receiving and using the BLT money, the community can experience a better life, the village head at the Pematang Pelintahan Village Office stated that if it is said that people who receive assistance will prosper, it is not necessarily true, but this assistance can at least help them with their daily needs in the future. a pandemic like this. This statement was reinforced by the Village Secretary who stated that the BLT program was indeed good and helped the poor especially with basic needs. However, if asked whether BLT can bring welfare to the community, of course, it is not true because based on what I see everyday there is no change in the quality of life let alone welfare. For example, like this, my neighbour's deck got BLT, but their living conditions did not change. Because it is indeed difficult for them to improve their fortunes with very minimal financial assistance at this time. Another statement from the Head of Finance and General Affairs stated that BLT money of Rp. 600,000 every three months could not increase the welfare of the poor. Because the money is only enough to buy daily needs. Even that is not enough for one month, especially for a family with many dependents. So it is difficult for the community to improve the economy with that much money. This statement is in line with the Head of Service and Welfare Section who stated that BLT during this pandemic cannot eliminate poverty, let alone make people live in prosperity because the people get money worth Rp. 600,000 per month. Even though people receive BLT, they cannot rely solely on BLT money to build their lives, BLT money is only enough to help for a moment.

According to Sunarti (2012) states that Welfare is an order of life and social, material and spiritual life that is filled with a sense of safety, decency and inner and outer peace that allows every citizen to carry out efforts to fulfil the best possible physical, spiritual and social needs for self, family and society (Purba & Syafrizal, 2022 ; Bintang et al., 2022). From another reference about whether after receiving and using the BLT money, the community can feel a better/prosperous life, that is not because the community is generally a recipient of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) that BLT money is valued only as money to buy groceries and other needs such as the needs of school children and daily expenses because according to the BLT beneficiaries that Rp. 600,000 per month is only enough to buy nine staples. Therefore, according to them, BLT recipients cannot be prosperous by relying only on BLT.

3. Desired Degree of Change

The desired degree of change explains how much change one wants or wants to achieve through a policy implementation that must have a clear scale. A policy is expected to provide good benefits on an ongoing basis. A good implementation will provide good output for a short or long period continuously on a regular basis. In terms of the desired degree of change, we will look at the various phenomena observed by the author in the field related to the process of implementing direct cash assistance in Pematang Pelintahan Village. According to Ms Sumiati, the community's response to the provision of direct cash assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic lived in the village of Pematang Pelintahan Dusun III, stated that it was very helpful, because I do not have a steady income and job, and I live alone and am the backbone family for my children. So the BLT-DD is very helpful in lightening the burden on me and my children.

This is another statement from the community stating that the assistance was very helpful because I was also affected by Covid-19 and my trade is currently starting to be quiet is, but with this assistance, it can help a little for my capital, for treatment, and for my needs for a few days. Likewise, a statement from Mr Boyadi stated that this assistance was very useful for daily life, although it was not enough for 1 month. According to Djalaludin Rakhmat (2008) states that in general responses or responses can be interpreted as results or impressions obtained (left behind) from observations about subjects, events or relationships obtained by concluding information. Other references regarding the community's response to direct cash assistance from the government during the COVID-19 pandemic. Direct Cash Assistance or BLT provided by the government is focused on the poor affected by

COVID-19 with an index of Rp. 600,000 per family. This assistance will be provided for 3 months and will begin in April 2020 and will be given to the families listed in the Integrated Social Welfare Data. But with the condition that the recipient of this assistance does not receive social assistance from the Family Hope Program (PKH), Pre-Employment Cards, and Non-Cash Food Assistance (Mayasari, 2020; Supsiolani et al., 2022).

4. Location of Decision Making

The location of decision-making in a policy has an important role in the implementation of a policy, so in this section, it must be explained where the decision-making of a policy to be implemented is located. The location of decision-making is of course very closely related to Stakeholders where every decision taken in implementing a program policy must be in accordance with existing rules and regulations and decisions taken are of course in the common interest. To what extent is the level of target determination in the implementation of Direct Cash Assistance? Mr Village Head at the Pematang Pelintahan Village Office stated that for the distribution of direct cash assistance, God willing, in Pematang Pelintahan Village there were no problems and was right on target and for the category of recipients, namely DTKS and those affected by Covid-19 such as middle economic levels, such as animal traders because of markets closed animals, vegetable traders/markets. Another statement was reinforced by the Village Secretary who stated that the village of Pematang it was still running smoothly, and there were no problems or complaints in the community. The first stage has realized 70 people, then the second stage is 74 people because some have received KKS (Prosperous Family Cards) from the centre, so it is reduced so that they cannot overlap or receive double assistance, for example, BPNT and BLT-DD. Apart from that, to avoid social inequality, the policy for deleting recipient data is continuously updated. The statement submitted by the Head of Service and Welfare Section stated that this did not happen in this Pematang Pelintahan village, meaning that everything was evenly distributed and on target in the first 3 months. Because according to Budiwanto (2012) states that target accuracy is a person's ability to direct a movement to a target in accordance with the goal.

5. Program Executor

Program implementation is very important in a policy because program implementers are drivers or tools to achieve something that has been determined at the beginning of policymaking. The ability of implementers to carry out BLT program policies The Head of Pematang Pelintahan Village stated that the executors were able to run this program because educationally they had graduated from tertiary institutions, so more or less they already understood it. The head of the service and welfare section conveyed the same thing, who stated that judging from their graduates, they could afford it because almost all of them had a university education which implemented this policy. The educational capacity of policy implementers has met the requirements as stated in government regulation number 43 of 2014 article 65 paragraph 1 that village officials must have at least a high school education. Stephen P.Robins (2012) states that ability is an individual's capacity to carry out various tasks in a particular job. All abilities of an individual are essentially composed of two sets of factors, namely intellectual abilities and physical abilities (Sutaryo, 2012 ; Purba et al., 2019).

6. Resources Involved

In implementing or implementing a policy, it needs to be supported by the existence of resources that can provide a positive influence and are useful for the success of implementing a policy or program. Regarding facilities and infrastructure, the Village Head said that the facilities and infrastructure for policies related to BLT were sufficient, for example, the official motorcycle that I used because this motorbike was very helpful in managing BLT policies. This statement was reinforced by the village secretary who stated that the support for facilities and infrastructure already exists and is very helpful in carrying out policies. According to Mounir (2002) states that facilities and infrastructure are all types of equipment, work equipment and facilities that function as the main tool/assistant in carrying out work, and also in the context of interests that are related to work organization (Mounir, 2002 ; Ampera et al., 2020).

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion at the beginning, it can be concluded that Covid-19 Direct Cash Assistance is determined by several aspects, namely in terms of interests that are affected, where many families are affected by Covid-19 and are economically weak, the average poor get it, but this assistance is only for people who are not yet equal. once get another help. In the aspect of the type of benefit, using BLT money the community can feel a better/prosperous life, not necessarily because the money they get is only enough for their daily needs. Likewise in the aspect of the degree of desired change, where the village office was on the wrong target in registering people who were eligible to receive assistance. As for the aspect of Location of Decision Making, where the accuracy of the target starts to be right because through processes and procedures, it is made according to the target for poor families to get BLT that deserves to get it and the formation of the organizational structure for implementing BLT is adjusted to the Regent's instructions and a clear division of tasks. Likewise with program implementers, in terms of the education they have a bachelor's degree so that their ability to identify and solve problems quickly, outreach to the community is not carried out formally, the implementing party is more closed and in terms of the resources involved, in the form of supporting facilities and infrastructure in the form of buildings, bicycles motorbikes, tables, chairs, and office stationery.

SUGGESTION

Based on the research above, it is suggested that BLT implementers should be more clear and firm in disseminating information about direct cash assistance, to avoid closed information to the public. The design process must be carried out once a month with a system of joint meetings regarding the discussion of the management of Direct Cash Assistance for those on duty. Likewise, in the data verification process, it is expected to be more thorough and more focused when processing data on the poor. In addition, the community must also be wiser in using and utilizing this assistance.

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