



Policies for the Implementation of Teaching and Learning Activities in the Context of Handling the Pandemic Covid-19 in Padang Panjang City During the Phase I Implementation of Restrictions on Micro-Based Community Activities (July 2021)

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ABSTRACT

Since the Covid-19 virus arrived in Indonesia in early 2020, it has altered the order of life in the country, including the order of education. COVID-19 affects a variety of community groups, including students. Because the Covid-19 virus spreads through human-to-human contact, the process of learning and teaching activities in schools that were initially carried out face-to-face were immediately changed to methods other than face-to-face. Padang Panjang City is one of the small towns in West Sumatra Province that has been affected by the Covid-19 virus's spread. Due to the high spread of the Covid-19 virus in the City of Padang Panjang in mid-2021, the Padang Panjang City Government has participated in implementing the policy of Enforcement of Community Activity Restrictions (micro-based), which has an impact on teaching and learning activities that are also carried out online. 100% actually work from home. However, there are still violations committed by educational institutions in the City of Padang Panjang in the implementation of the ECAR (micro-based) policy, for example, teaching and learning activities are still carried out face-to-face. The research method used in this study is qualitative descriptive research.



INTRODUCTION

According to Article 3 of the Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 20 of 2003 on the National Education System, the function of national education is to develop the capabilities, character, and civilization of a dignified nation in the context of educating the nation's life, with the goal of developing students' potential to become human beings who believe and fear God. The Almighty develops a noble personality, is healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, and self-sufficient, and becomes a democratic and responsible citizen.

The SARS-Cov-2 virus, also known as covid-19, first appeared at the end of December 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province. Corona virus 2019 (Covid-19) is a virus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome in humans. Initially, humans were only detected in animals, but transmission has now shifted from human to human. A person infected with the Covid-19 virus will have fever, cough, sore throat, loss of smell, and shortness of breath. The Covid-19 virus is a very lethal virus; nearly 260 million people worldwide have been confirmed positive, with 5.18 million people dying as a result. The spread of the Covid-19 virus, which has nearly struck every country on the planet, has altered the entire order of human existence, beginning with the order of social, economic, educational, cultural, and political life, and progressing to the order of public policy in a country.

Many nations, including Indonesia, are unprepared to cope with the Covid-19 virus due to its widespread dissemination. This lack of readiness for the epidemic has made the government "nervous" about adopting handling rules, so that the Indonesian government's handling policies frequently shift from Large-Scale Social Restrictions to Restrictions on Community Activities (Micro-Based). The Covid-19 virus has invaded almost every country on earth. According to data from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia as of November 26, 2021 at 05.50 WIB, the number of verified positive cases of Covid-19 in Indonesia is 4,254,815 individuals, of which 4,102,993 were certified cured and 143,782 were declared dead. One of the effects of the covid virus on the Indonesian way of life.

According to Nielsen's research titled "Race Against the Virus, Indonesian Consumer Response to Covid-19," as many as 50% of Indonesians have begun to curtail their activities outside the home, and 30% have stated that they want to purchase online more frequently. Similarly, teaching and learning activities, as well as work, are carried out from home in order to reduce the spread of Covid-19. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic's spread, there has been a shift in the way teaching and learning in schools was initially carried out 100 percent face-to-face in schools, suddenly suffering a very significant transformation, where learning activities are carried out online or online.

Padang Panjang was formed a kewedanaan after the Republic of Indonesia's Proclamation of Independence to operate the wheels of government. Its area comprises Padang Panjang, Batipuh, and X Koto, all of which are domiciled in Padang Panjang. After being conquered by the Dutch in 1947, the city of Padang Panjang became the capital of the interim administration of Central Sumatra during the Dutch military invasion. Based on the Chairperson of the DPRI's Decree on January 1, 1950 regarding the division of provinces, the division of regencies and cities was also determined, with Batipuh and X Koto included in the Tanah Datar Regency area, so Padang Panjang is only the seat of the Wedana who coordinates the X Koto District. The Padang Panjang Small Town was then legally established by Law Number 8 of 1956 about the Establishment of Small Town Autonomous Regions in the Province of Central Sumatra. Padang Panjang City is one of the smallest in West Sumatra Province, and the third smallest in Indonesia. Padang Panjang City is a city whose entire territory is bounded by Tanah Datar Regency, hence we refer to it as being located inside the Tanah Datar Regency region. Padang Panjang City has a total size of only approximately 23 km². The city is divided into two sub-districts, Padang Panjang Barang District and Padang Timur District, with each sub-district consisting of eight sub-districts. The villages of Silaing Atas, Silaing Bawah, Pasar Usang, Pasar Baru, Bukir Surungan, Tanah Hitam, Kampung Manggis, and Kelurahan Balai-Balai make up the West Padang Panjang District. The villages of Koto Panjang, Koto Katiak, Ngalau, Ekor Lubuk, Sigando, Ganting, Tanah Pak Lambik, and Guguk Malintang make up the East Padang Panjang Subdistrict. According to statistics from the Central Statistics Agency for the City of



Padang Panjang, the population of Padang Panjang City at the end of 2020 was 56,331 persons, with 3,127 active school pupils.

METHOD

The author's research method is a qualitative method with a descriptive form of study. This form of qualitative descriptive study is a descriptive research approach that employs qualitative data (Mohi et al., 2019). The City of Padang Panjang serves as the study's unit of analysis. The observation and literature strategies are used to obtain data. Because the author is a resident of the City of Padang Panjang, the author makes direct observations regarding the Policy for the Implementation of Teaching and Learning Activities during the Implementation of Restrictions on Community Activities (Micro-Based) Phase I (July 2021) in the context of Handling the Covid-19 Pandemic in the City of Padang Panjang. While the literary technique entails the author reading extensively from articles, internet news, and material on social media, as well as hearing about the progress of the Covid-19 epidemic via news on television.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Since the first Covid-19 case was discovered in Indonesia on March 20, 2020, specifically a 31-year-old lady called Sita Tyasutami (patient 1) and her 64-year-old mother Maria Darmaningsih (patient 2), Indonesia has promptly implemented a tracing strategy in both patients. The two patients are from Depok City in West Java Province. However, some epidemiologists in Indonesia believe that this action is too late. Indonesia should promptly conduct thorough inspections at the entrance gate of Indonesian Citizens/Foreign Citizens from overseas, because the Covid-19 case was reported in Wuhan, China in early January 2021.

More than 500,000 early childhood care centers, schools, and colleges have shuttered and transitioned to remote learning since March 2020. More than 60 million youngsters are affected by this policy. Local governments make the option to reopen schools, and most schools have not yet resumed face-to-face instruction. In April 2021, four ministries (Education and Culture, Health, Religion, and Home Affairs) published a Joint Decree stating that the central government will urge schools to resume face-to-face learning in July 2021. The majority of schools have or will have a mixed learning paradigm that blends face-to-face and distant learning. Teachers are included in the national vaccination program as a priority category to get vaccinated in order to facilitate the reopening of schools. Covid-19 has created significant disruption in Indonesian education. Seventy percent of parents were concerned about their children's learning during the epidemic. Even before the epidemic, Indonesia experienced significant learning obstacles, with 70% of 15-year-old children failing to reach minimal competency in reading and math abilities. According to the World Bank simulation model, school closures in Indonesia might result in a 21-point drop in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) score for reading ability.

The sole legal foundation for the government in dealing with public health problems caused by the spread of the 2019 SAR-Cov-2 virus, or Covid-19, is Law Number 6 of 2018. According to Law Number 6 of 2018, the policy for dealing with the Covid-19 epidemic in Indonesia that should be implemented is regional quarantine and Large-Scale Social Restrictions (LSSR). However, because the government did not immediately take efforts to quarantine the region, it only occurred in the Depok City area at first, the Covid-19 virus spread throughout Indonesia, thus the government immediately implemented LSSR in practically all of Indonesia. If we dig further, the government's control strategies for dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic have concentrated on avoiding pandemic transmission in the midst of society, yet the regulations are often too random.

In general, the government's strategy for avoiding transmission is separated into three parts: around the place of residence, while traveling, and when engaging in activities outside the house. As a result, in order to manage areas of life and the number of people who are not tiny, particular regulations that serve as guidelines, as well as the dynamics of periodic renewal, are required. The three components are, first and foremost, to reduce the possibility of transmission upstream or near people's homes. Based on the latest Instruction from the Minister of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Task Force Circular, arrangements are being made to construct a



Village/Ward Covid-19 Command Center. This command center serves as an extension of the government's arm in selecting the proper control scenario at the Neighborhood and Community Unit levels. Four Covid-19 control functions are available to the task force and command center at the village/ward level. The four of them are involved in community, government, and military activities for prevention, handling, coaching, and assistance. This takes into account the complicated and distinct difficulties that each region faces. Second, while on the way to the activity's location. It is evident that the possibility of transmission exists during mobilization with many forms of conveyance available. Domestic travel has always required the possession of a Covid-19 negative certificate, a vaccination card, and a Worker Registration Certificate (WRC). Meanwhile, health screening, appointment of mandatory documents such as a negative Covid-19 certificate and vaccination card, karantina, repeated Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests twice, and vaccination for those who have not been vaccinated are the protocols that must be followed by international travelers who wish to enter Indonesian territory. And the third, which covers features of activities when away from home. As we all know, the government devised the strategy of imposing limits on community activities, which spans several sectors.

During the Covid-19 epidemic, teachers, students, and parents are the most disadvantaged by online learning rules. The relationship between professors and students has been reduced as a result of distance learning activities. Because most professors and students utilize social media platforms such as WhatsApp or Zoom to replace face-to-face studying, you can be confident that online learning time will be limited to no more than two hours. Much different is the case when teaching and learning activities are carried out face-to-face in schools, where students and instructors contact for around 8 hours each day, thus interaction between students and teachers takes longer at school.

With an increasing number of positive Covid-19 cases in Indonesia in the first semester of 2021, the Indonesian government adopted quick strategic efforts to reduce the rate of instances. The Central Government has made attempts to limit Micro-Based Community Activities. On July 5, 2021, the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia issued Instruction of the Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 17 of 2021 concerning the Enforcement of Restrictions on Community Activities in order to implement the ECAR (Micro-based) policy to prevent the Covid-19 pandemic (Micro Based). This Instruction from the Minister of Home Affairs provides as a guideline for all Regional Governments, including the Padang Panjang City Government, in adopting regulations to restrict community activities during the Covid-19 epidemic.

The Padang Panjang City Government quickly followed the Minister of Home Affairs' Instruction by releasing Padang Panjang Mayor's Instruction Number 239 of 2021 about the Enforcement of Restrictions on Micro-Based Community Activities in the City of Padang Panjang. The Mayor of Padang Panjang directed, notably in the Fourth Instruction, that the control of activities during ECAR be carried out with the proviso that teaching and learning activities (Schools, Colleges/Academy, Education/Training Places) be carried out online.

The Education and Culture Office of the City of Padang Panjang responded to the Instruction on July 26, 2021, by issuing Circular Letter Number 1061 of 2021 concerning the Enforcement of Restrictions on Emergency Community Activities for Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) within the Education and Culture Office of the City of Padang. Long. The circular letter from the Department of Education and Culture is written to all Padang Panjang City Government school principals and school supervisors. During the Covid-19 epidemic, this circular letter served as a reference and guidance for schools in the city of Padang Panjang in carrying out teaching and learning activities.

The Padang Panjang City Government, through the Padang Panjang City Education and Culture Office, issued Circular Number 1061 instructing all elementary and junior high school principals in the Padang Panjang City Government that learning activities would be carried out by learning from home beginning July 26, 2021 and ending August 2, 2021. The issuance time span between the Padang Panjang Mayor's Instruction and the Padang Panjang City Education and Culture Office Circular is quite long, approximately 3 weeks, indicating that the Education and Culture Office is a little late in responding to the Mayor's Instruction, and thus the policy is not top notch down directly to the work unit below. Padang Panjang City Padang Panjang was at Level 4 at the time of the introduction of Phase I Micro-based ECAR across Indonesia. Teaching and learning activities were carried out online in accordance with the guideline for dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result of this



online teaching and learning process, a slew of new issues have evolved in the field of education, ranging from uneven internet access to parents' capacity to supply internet quotas to the traditional problem of "technology stuttering" in the majority of teaching personnel.

According to the author's findings, the Policy for the Implementation of Teaching and Learning Activities during the Implementation of Restrictions on Micro-Based Community Activities Phase I (July 2021) in the City of Padang Panjang is consistent with Central Government regulations. The Padang Panjang Mayor's Instruction number 239 of 2021 and the Circular Letter of the Padang Panjang City Education and Culture Office number 1061 of 2021 attest to this. The results of the author's study in the two letters are extremely reflective of the central government's Covid-19 pandemic management policies, particularly those linked to online teaching and learning regulations.

Based on the author's limited observations of several schools in Padang Panjang, it is almost certain that all public schools in Padang Panjang have followed the instructions of the Education and Culture Office of the City of Padang Panjang as contained in Circular Letter Number 1061, where teaching and learning activities are carried out online. However, this is not the case in private schools; some private schools continue to carry out face-to-face teaching and learning activities, but with the implementation of very strict health protocols, such as limiting the number of students in schools, carrying out teaching and learning activities in turns, and reducing teaching and learning activities from normal school hours. Face-to-face teaching and learning activities at private schools must still be approved by parents, and parents are given the flexibility to choose whether their children study face-to-face or online in compliance with Padang Panjang City Government laws. According to conversations with private schools, the desire for face-to-face learning is much stronger among parents. Of course, parents' desire to instantly engage in face-to-face teaching and learning activities at school cannot be divorced from parents' concerns about their children's growth. This issue emerges as a result of nearly two years of online teaching and learning activities, which have resulted in parents seeing no substantial development for their children. Because of this parental encouragement, several private schools finally took the risk of continuing to carry out face-to-face teaching and learning activities in schools while implementing ECAR Micro-based Level 4 in Padang Panjang City, albeit without the knowledge or permission of the Padang Panjang City Education and Culture Office. The author also conducted direct monitoring of several private schools that continued to carry out face-to-face learning at school, and we discovered that schools forbade their students who came to school from wearing school uniforms, reasoning that students who came to school were there to submit assignments. Face-to-face learning is not permitted at school. According to the author, this is one of the techniques employed by schools in order to "outwit" the Padang Panjang Micro-based ECAR policy. In addition to this technique, the school requested a letter from all parents of kids who wanted face-to-face learning activities to continue, so that the school could avoid any future problems.

CONCLUSIONS

When we look at the policy actions done by the Padang Panjang City Government in terms of teaching and learning activities, we can see that they are consistent with the policies of the Central Government. Due to limited direct access in the learning process, all components of educational institutions must be technologically prepared. The Covid-19 epidemic has had an indirect good influence on the world of education, as instructors and students must comprehend and be able to use technology in order to continue the teaching and learning process. In addition, the pandemic's indirect good impact is the reduced time and expense of traveling to and from school. Another issue that occurs during online learning is the scientific capability of pupils. Parents are particularly worried about their children's progress in learning the topic. There have been no positive instances of Covid-19 in Padang Panjang City, West Sumatra, from the previous month till Thursday (11/18/2021). Furthermore, no one is being treated or is being isolated. According to statistics issued by the City of Padang Panjang's Communication and Information Office, the development of positive cases of Covid-19 in the City of Padang Panjang through November 26, 2021 was 2,744 positive cases, 2,693 cases recovered, and 51 individuals died. If we look at the progress of dealing with Covid-19 in the City of Padang Panjang, we can



conclude that this policy is successful, because the City of Padang Panjang has been at Level I ECAR Micro-based for the last two months, and is the only city in West Sumatra Province that has already at Level I ECAR Micro-based, so the Teaching and Learning Activities have been carried out 100 percent face to face. Many parents are overjoyed and relieved that their children will be able to study regularly at school again.

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