

Implementation Of Policy For The Use Of Village Fund For Rural Social Economic Development And Covid-19 Prevention (Study In North Oba District, Tidore Islands City)

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the extent of implementing the Policy on the Use of Village Funds for Socio-Economic Development and Covid-19 Prevention in 11 villages in North Oba District, Tidore Islands City, from 2020 to 2022. This study used a qualitative method with the type of case study research. Data was collected by using a technique using questionnaires, digital documents, and online news. The results of this study indicate that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has greatly negatively affected people's lives, seen from the availability of infrastructure for village socioeconomic development and community life activities. However, overall the implementation of the Village Fund policy for Socio-Economic Development and Covid-19 Pandemic Management is going quite well. The factor that supports this success is that the socialization of programs and information about the dangers of the Covid-19 pandemic is running optimally. Then other dimensions that support the bureaucratic structure, coordination between implementers is quite intensive, and the relationship is collaborative between policy actors or implementers. The inhibiting factor arises from the dimension of village apparatus resources, many of which have not mastered administration, and the limitations of the Village Fund budget so that socioeconomic development infrastructure is insufficient in preventing the spread of the coronavirus.

Keywords: Implementation, Village Fund, Development, Soc Economic, Covid-19.

INTRODUCTION

In the context of village development, disturbances caused by the pandemic are also felt by rural communities, not only in the health sector but also in the social, economic, and administrative fields (Moreno et al., 2020). Since the onset of Covid-19, which has not only resulted in human health and safety but has also had an impact on all fields, from business to village governance (Bambra et al., 2020; Paakkari & Okan, 2020; Pfefferbaum & North, 2020; Wang & Tang, 2020). The 8.9% death rate among victims in Indonesia demonstrates this nationwide in the health sector. Similarly, the pandemic has slowed down economic activity throughout the region, particularly in rural areas. The possibility of lowering community welfare is not ruled out. Economic growth is anticipated to be only -0.4 percent to 2.3 percent in the medium term after the pandemic has reached Indonesia, a significant decrease from the 5% growth rate of the previous year (Cutler, 2020; Gautam & Hens, 2020; Clemente-Suárez et al., 2021; Allen & Mirsaeidi, 2020). The epidemic impacted numerous business sectors, resulting in fewer jobs and layoffs. It is estimated that social instability could occur if this condition is not adequately anticipated. According to Asmanto, (2020) in the long run, there will be a wider gap between income groups and regions, cities, and villages, affecting intergenerational poverty.

The number of active cases worldwide and the spread of the Covid 19 pandemic until March 1, 2021, are 11.41 percent and 19.05 percent, respectively. Since the beginning of April 2020, death cases in Indonesia have tended to fluctuate and increase, which is slightly different from active cases. The proportion of deaths tends to decrease over the subsequent months. On account of world passings, it expanded enormously in Spring - April 2020. Then, the trend has been downward, in line with Indonesia. Besides, as of Walk 1, 2021, the level of Indonesia is 2.71%, and the world is 2.22%, with a distinction of 0.5%. The percentage then showed a sharp increase for Indonesian recovery until August 2020, when it started to tend to slope, even though it continued to rise until now. In the meantime, global healing experienced a significant decline in March 2020 and continued to rise. According to Rizki et al.,

(2021) as of March 1, 2021, the healing rate in Indonesia was 85.88%, while it was 78.74% worldwide (Mahendradhata et al., 2021; Wirawan & Januraga, 2021).

In North Maluku Province, the progress of handling Covid-19 until January 2021 shows that seven districts/cities have relatively high active cases of Covid-19, found in several areas, such as in South Halmahera 155 people, North Halmahera 48 people, Tidore City Islands 43 people, Ternate 40 people, Sula Islands 35 people, East Halmahera 16 people and Central Halmahera 14 people. Meanwhile, for the yellow zone, there are five people in West Halmahera, the Regency of Taliabu Island, and Morotai Island; no active Covid-19 patients have been found. Meanwhile, the Covid-19 death rate is 3 percent. The cure rate reached 83 percent, higher than the national cure rate of 82 percent. The positive number of Covid-19 in North Maluku, 13.5 percent, is lower than the national figure of 14 percent, so North Maluku Province does not enter the provincial criteria for the massive social restrictions.

The allocation of the use of the Village Fund, which is strengthened based on the Circular of the Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration (Mendes PDTT), is one of the things the government does to suppress active cases and deaths, increase recovery, and be able to move the economy, particularly in rural areas. Number 8 of 2020, which refers to Covid-19 Responsive Villages, serves as a reference for implementing Village Cash Intensive Work (PKTD) and Covid-19 Responsive Villages. A new tool to reduce the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on villages is provided by Perppu Number 1 of 2020, which addresses State Financial Policy and Financial System Stability for Handling the 2019 Corona Virus Disease Pandemic.

The regulation's Article 2 Paragraph 1 Letter (i) states that specific criteria must be used to prioritize the use of budget allocations for specific activities (refocusing), adjust allocations, and cut or delay budget transfers to regions and villages. This article examines the regulation, implementation, and aspects of implementing government programs funded by village funds in light of the preceding background. In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the policy regulation on the priority use of village funds as stated in the Regulation of the Minister of Villages PDTT Number 8 of 2020 concerning Priority for the Use of Village Funds is, in principle, appropriate. However, these policies are only sometimes fully implemented,

so it is necessary to investigate how to use village funds for socioeconomic development and efforts to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in villages in Tidore City's North Oba District. Islands, Province of North Maluku.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research was conducted in 11 villages in North Oba District, Tidore Islands City, North Maluku Province. This research is qualitative (Creswell & Poth, 2016; Phillippi & Lauderdale, 2018; Richardson, 2018; Marshall et al., 2013). The data sources used to consist of primary and secondary. Primary data sources were obtained directly using questionnaires distributed to village officials and communities in villages in North Oba District. Meanwhile, secondary data is obtained from official documents and various kinds of literature relevant to the discussion of this research (Punch, 2013; Adhabi & Anozie, 2017). The informants in this study were 99 people, consisting of 11 Village Secretaries and 80 Village People.

Data collection and analysis techniques are obtained through analysis of laws, government regulations, national and local news, print and electronic, and official government social media. In addition, additional data from the distribution of questionnaires with village officials and village communities. Data collection techniques consist of field surveys and literature. Field data collection begins with: (1) Pre-field stages which include: preparing research designs, selecting locations, and preparing proposals and permits. (2) The next stage is the field, which includes understanding and entering the field and collecting data for village officials and the community. In essence, the analysis stage is carried out as an interaction process consisting of data reduction and conclusions or verification (Huberman, 1992; Moleong, 2007; Arikunto, 2013; Reay, 2014; Graue, 2015; Sgier, 2012).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the results section, the paper presents the results of this qualitative study. It continues with a discussion that describes the results of a similar study to support the findings of our study (Anney, 2014; Belton et al., 2019; Rasmitadila et al., 2021; Kohnke & Moorhouse, 2021; Iqbal & Bhatti, 2020). North Oba District is one of 8 (eight) sub-districts in Tidore Islands City, located in the middle of the capital city of North Maluku Province, with an area of 376.00 Km². When viewed from a

geographical point of view, the condition of the North Oba District area is categorized as lowland, not coastal, with a relatively flat land area with an altitude of 5-17 meters above sea level.

North Oba District consists of 11 (eleven) Villages and 2 (two) Kelurahan, namely; Kaiyasa Village, Gosale Village, Guraping Village, Galala Village, Balbar Village, Sofifi Village, Bukit Durian Village, Ampera Village, Akekolano Village, Garojou Village, Oba Village, Somahode Village, and Kusu Village.

The total population in North Oba District, based on population data in 2021, is 17,650 people, who are also grouped by gender, religion, and livelihood. Social facilities and infrastructure in North Oba District consist of schools, health, worship facilities, and sports.

Economic institutions in the North Oba Sub-district consist of markets, stalls/kiosks, shops, banking, and non-banking. Meanwhile, there are also various kinds of economic potential that are developing and can be cultivated and developed more broadly in the form of culinary, trade services, transportation services, shopping centers, typical crafts, crackers, chips, bread, and pastries.

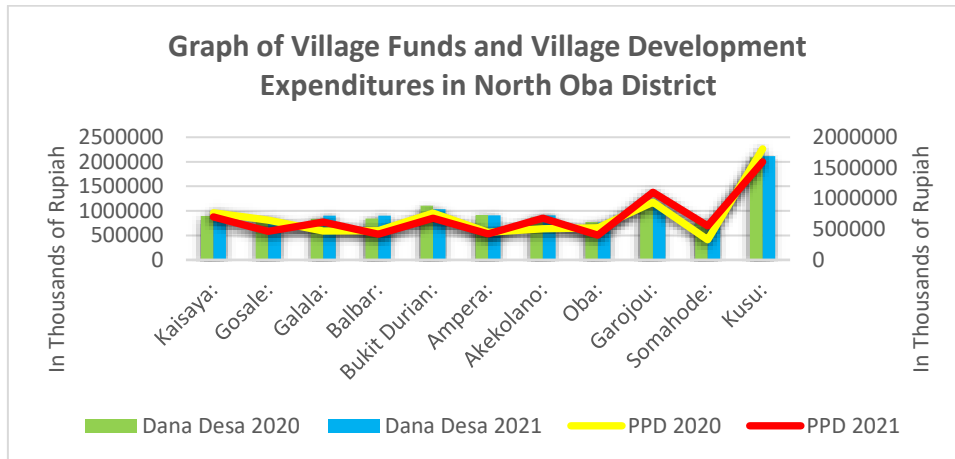
Community social problems can be found in North Oba District in the form of population density in certain areas resulting in much garbage causing air pollution, inadequate and inadequate MCK and clean water facilities, lack of green open land, and unhealthy community behavior such as waste culture littering (Widyakusuma, 2013). North Oba City of Tidore Islands, North Maluku Province.

Village Fund and Socio-Economic Development

One of the Village Funds is used for village socioeconomic development, which consists of Village Development Expenditures, Community Development, and Community Empowerment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, village funds experienced a refocusing or shift of a small portion of the financing for the prevention of COVID-19, but socioeconomic development must continue (Suparman, 2021). The village fund data during the covid 19 period was obtained from 11

villages in North Oba District, as shown in Figure 4.11 below or detailed in appendix 1;

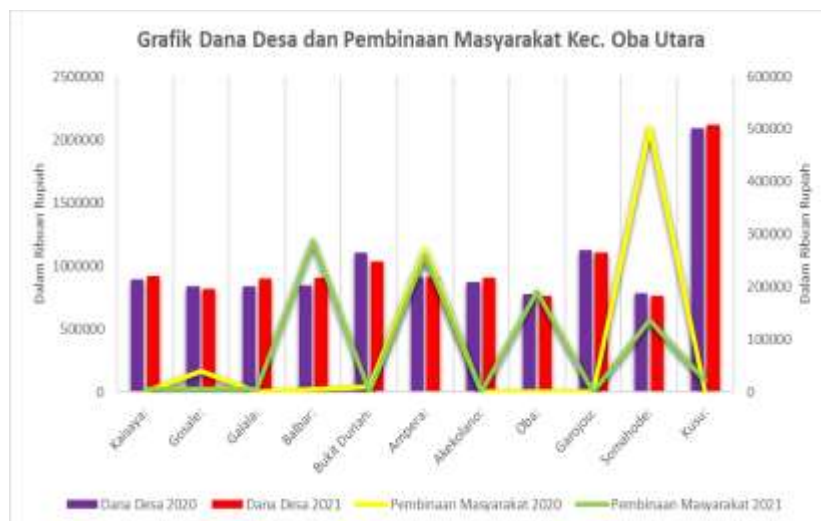
Figure 4.11 Village Funds and Village Development Expenditures



Source: North Oba District Office, 2022. Processed

From Figure 4.11 above, it can be seen that Village Funds in 11 villages in North Oba District from 2020 to 2021 continue to be arranged in the APBDesa as per the PD TT Village Minister Regulation for the Village Development Expenditure program, which consists of Village Government Implementation, and Village Development Implementation.

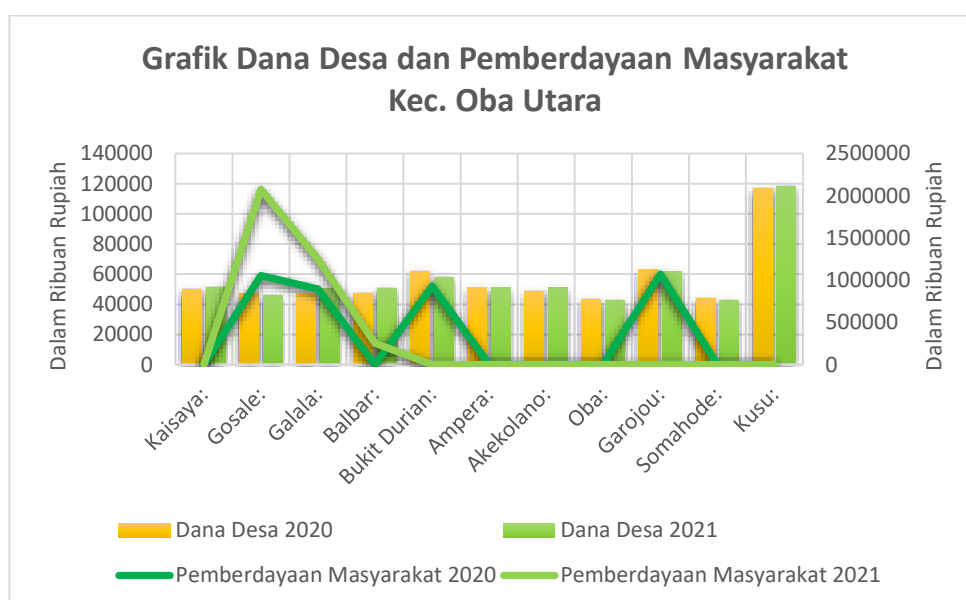
Figure 4.12 Village Funds and Community Development for 2020-2021



Source: North Oba District Office, 2022. Processed

From Figure 4.12 and in detail in Appendix 2, it can also be seen that the Village Funds in 11 villages in North Oba District are used not only for Village Development Expenditures but also for Community Development. However, several villages in 2020 and 2021 still need to allocate a budget for Community Development, such as Akekolano and Garjou Villages. Some still need to allocate village funds in 2020, such as Kaisaya, Galala, Oba, and Kusu Villages. In 2021, villages that do not allocate village funds for Community Development activities, such as Bukit Durian Village.

Figure 4.13 Village Funds and Community Empowerment for 2020-2021



Source: North Oba District Office, 2022. Processed

For the Community Empowerment program, as shown in table 4.13 above, it shows that only two villages have allocated Village Funds in 2020 and 2021, namely, Gosale and Galala villages. Meanwhile, those who only allocated one fiscal year, namely 2020, are Bukit Durian and Garojou Villages, and those allocated in 2021 are Balbar Village. Meanwhile, the villages that did not allocate Community Empowerment programs in 2020 and 2021 were Kaisaya, Ampera, Akekolano, Oba, Somahode, and Kusu villages.

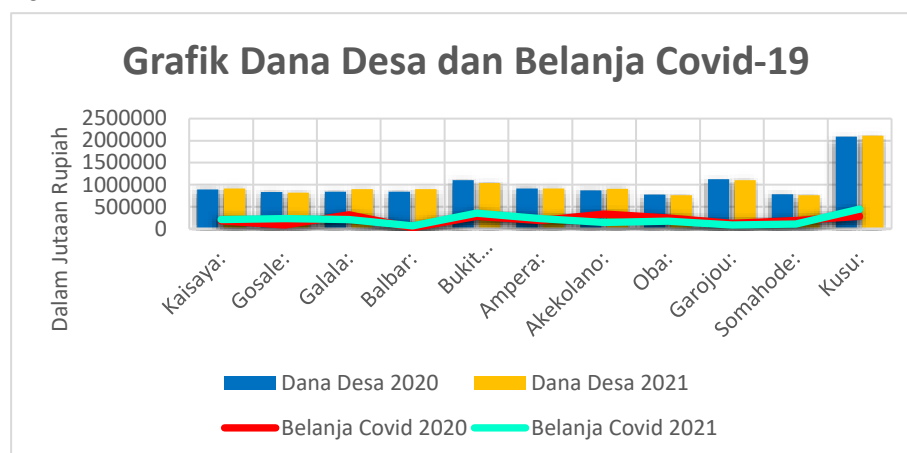
Village Funds and Covid 19 Prevention Expenditures

COVID-19 poses unprecedented challenges around the world. Beyond the public Economic and societal restrictions and the health crisis have had a surprising impact on humanity's development, pushing people into poverty, limiting children's access to education and health care, and increasing complaints about mental health.

Budget shifts (refocusing) are carried out in all financial sectors, from the main level to the regions and the use of village funds, because the impact of COVID-19 on people's activities is so significant that the government considers it a significant problem that must be addressed.

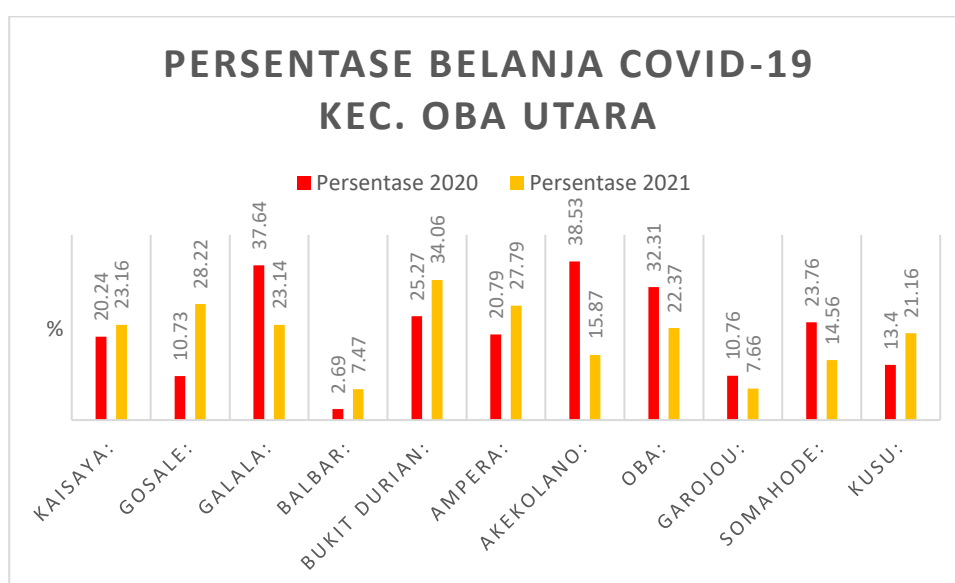
We were referring to the Village Minister of PDTT's Decree, which issued letter circular No. 8 of 2020 concerning the Covid-19 response villages and the confirmation of the cash-intensive village program. The allocation of direct cash assistance for the village fund ceiling, which is less than IDR, is governed by guidelines in the circulation letter. Twenty-five percent of village funds are set at eight hundred million. Additionally, the allocation for villages with ceiling IDR 800 million to A 35% share goes to 1.2 billion. More than 35% of the local government's approval is required for this plan to be implemented (Ahsany et al., 2020).

For the BLT-DD distribution process, the village bureaucracy is fully responsible for the data on which villagers are entitled to receive BLT-DD assistance. The village bureaucracy is guided by regulations related to the goals of the BLT-DD social assistance product, namely based on the Minister of Village Regulation No. 6 of 2020 concerning the priority use of village funds in 2020, the villagers who will receive the BLTDD are poor people who are not registered as recipients of the Family Hope Program (FHP) or Non-Cash Food Assistance (NCFA), lost their livelihoods due to Covid-19, and have families who are prone to chronic illness (Se & Langga, 2021).

Figure 4.14 Village Funds and Covid Expenditures for 2020-2021

Source: North Oba District Office, 2022. Processed

Village Funds used for Covid 19 Expenditures, shown in Appendix 4 and illustrated at 4.14 on average, are below 39 percent. The highest percentage issued by Akekolano Village in 2020 was IDR. 335.400.000, and the smallest in the same year was Balbar Village of IDR. 22,753,000. In 2021 the largest expenditure for covid 19 was made by Bukit Durian Village of IDR. 352,313,360, and the smallest expenditure by Balbar Village was IDR. 67.39 million.

**Figure 4.15 Percentage of Covid Expenditures in 2020-2021 in North Oba District**

Source: North Oba District Office, 2022. Processed

The results show that the impact of COVID-19 on Family Finance is seen from the average monthly household expenditure before Covid-19 in rupiah values, the average percentage reduction in income, the percentage experiencing a decrease in income, the percentage experiencing an increase in expenditure, and the percentage experiencing a decrease in expenditure. The difference between the households with the lowest and highest expenditure needs to be further (Campbell, 2014).

Nearly three-quarters of the households (74.3%) interviewed said their income was significantly lower than before COVID-19. The lowest expenditure of respondents was, on average, IDR. 1,200,000 and the highest is IDR 2,500,000. Judging from the average percentage reduction in income, the lowest expenditure was 45%, and the highest was 48%.

In comparison, those who experienced a decrease in income were 60% for the lowest expenditure respondents and 65% for the highest expenditure respondents. If it is seen from the family experiencing an increase in expenditure, the respondent with the lowest expenditure was 25%, and the respondent with the highest expenditure was 36%—8% (Sreenivas, 2022).

Table 4.14

Impact of COVID-19 on Family Finances in North Oba District

Information	Lowest Spend	Highest Expenditure
Average household expenditure monthly before covid (IDR)	1,200	2,500
Average % reduction in income	45%	48%
Have decreased revenue (%)	60%	65%
Experiencing an increase in expenses (%)	25.%	36.%
Have decreased spending (%)	24.4	21.8

Source: North Oba District Office, 2022. Processed

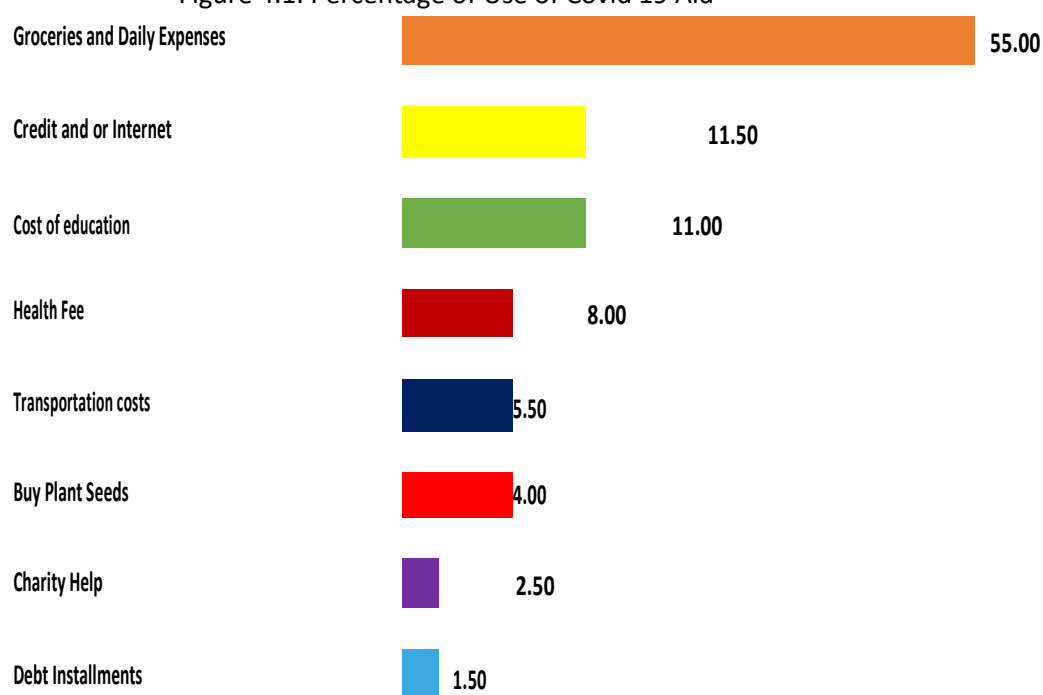
From the poorest to the richest households, all income groups saw a similar percentage decline in income. Numerous families were already monetarily secure yet, during the Coronavirus pandemic, have become poor or are in danger of becoming

poor (Kansiime et al., 2021). For many households, the loss of income is not the only challenge; another challenge is that almost a third more respondents, or 34.5%, said their expenses have also increased. The increased cost of food and other necessities significantly contributed to this increase in spending (Vargas-Lopez et al., 2022). A significantly higher proportion of household expenditures with children attending school about 60%) spent more on internet or cell phone expenses than those without children or about 40%.

While related to the source of work, only a small percentage, or around 12%, of the primary breadwinners have changed jobs due to COVID-19. In addition, it was also found that around 65% of households did not have savings that they could rely on during the Covid-19 pandemic. Nearly 40% of households mortgaged their property to survive, and about 30% borrowed money informally from family or friends (Craig & Churchill, 2021).

The Village Fund assistance and other social assistance received by the people affected by COVID were primarily used for 11 expenses such as Food and daily expenses (55%), Credit and Internet (11.5%), Education Costs (11%), Health Fees (8%), Transportation (5.5%), Cost of Agricultural Seeds and Seeds (4%), Social Assistance (2.5%), Debt Installments (1.5%), and Cost of Rent a House or Residence (0.5%) (Janssen, 2002).

Figure 4.1. Percentage of Use of Covid 19 Aid



House Rent

0.50

Source: North Oba District Office, 2022. Processed

Most families (90.5%) got somewhere around one type of social help, be it cash moves or something like that, and the more significant part of all families (60%) got cash moves. According to Bhorat et al., (2021) most aid is given to the poorest households. More than half of those in the bottom 45% of the spending (income) distribution received cash, and more than 90% received at least one form of assistance. Most financially secure families before the pandemic yet encountered a massive loss of pay after the pandemic began could likewise get to help (around 65%). Numerous families got a mix of money moves and in-kind help, and there was little duplication in families getting cash programs, spreading the advantages further.

Two-thirds (90%) of recipients of government assistance through the Village Fund and other assistance said that the assistance helped in the impact of the recession on household finances. Households use this assistance to buy food and daily necessities, cellular/internet credit, education costs, health costs, transportation, costs for seeds and seeds for fish farming, social assistance; infaq and alms for Muslims, a charity in the church for Christians, debt repayments, and the cost of renting a house or residence (0.5%) (Germano, 2018).

However, cash transfers will still be required for more than a third of households in 2020 or around 38%. Compared to cash recipients, 75% of non-cash recipients experienced a loss of income. Approximately 7.5 percent of households with small businesses receive government support. Four out of ten owners of small businesses said they needed to know about government assistance. Small businesses are essential sources of income for many households. A third of respondents have at least one household member who owns a business, and the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted nearly all of these businesses or roughly 90%. Lower revenue, fewer customers, and higher costs are the primary concerns (Gentilini, 2022).

In table 4.15, it can be seen that all MSME businesses in North Oba District experienced negative and positive impacts from Covid-19 on average, such as the negative impact of buyers being reduced (66.40%), income decreasing

(56.30%), costs increasing (11.50%), reduced capital (10.50%), interrupted availability of raw materials (54.70%), difficult delivery or distribution of goods (5.30%), and unable to pay business loans (2.90%) However, the positive impact is, costs are reduced (2.60%), buyers are increased (2.10%) and income is also increased (0.90%) (Purwanto et al., 2021).

Table 4.15 Percentage of Impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs

Information	All business	Owned by men	Owned by women	Jointly owned
Buyers reduced	66.40	61.00	70.20	70.80
Income decreased	56.30	57.20	57.50	53.70
Cost increases	11.50	2.50	11.50	10.10
Reduced capital	10.50	9.00	11.70	11.40
Availability of raw materials is disrupted	54.70	6.79	4.32	5.40
Delivery/distribution of goods is difficult	5.30	8.50	3.40	3.40
Unable to pay the business loan	2.90	1.40	3.30	5.50
Reduced cost	2.60	1.80	1.80	5.90
Buyers increase	2.10	1.40	3.00	1.70
Increased revenue	0.90	0.60	1.400	0.60

Source: North Oba District Office, 2022. Processed

Due to the disruption in their children's education, nearly three out of four parents worry that they will miss out on their education. Eighty percent of households with children report that having reliable internet access is a significant concern for children learning from home with difficulty. 55% of parents said they needed more time, and 50% said they had less capacity to help their children learn from home. One of the reasons for school closings is that fewer health services are available to families with children; Children face additional dangers due to economic uncertainty and social isolation. According to the study, 75% of households reported having trouble with their children's behavior. 40% of them claimed that children had difficulty concentrating; 15% became angrier, and

30% became lazy in their studies; 12% reported difficulty sleeping (Patrick et al., 2020).

Fathers are less likely than mothers to take care of their children. Only 20% of households said fathers took the lead in supporting their children's homeschooling, while 80% said mothers did. The families of half of these women are also supported by paid work. They struggle to maintain a work-life balance due to the increased responsibilities brought on by school closures (Goldberg et al., 2021).

Thirty-five percent of respondents expressed concern that they will be unable to feed their families. During the Covid-19 era, 25% of households experienced moderate or severe food insecurity. Food insecurity is primarily caused by income reductions and disruptions to food delivery systems. More significant number of households, approximately 78%, stated that they lacked savings to help cushion the impact of the crisis (P.-W. Wang et al., 2020).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the results of this study, it can be concluded:

1. The implementation of village funds for socioeconomic development and the prevention of Covid-19 in North Oba District has been running quite successfully. However, there are still some things that could be improved.
2. The percentage of village fund allocations in all villages that are research locations in the allocation of Covid-19 budgeting funds differs from statutory regulations.
3. Some village development programs have been trimmed or reduced to the point of eliminating the program to prioritize overcoming Covid-19.
4. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has negatively affected the socioeconomic activities of the community.
5. Covid-19 has dramatically influenced and changed people's mindsets, giving rise to new ways of thinking to anticipate if they will experience the same thing as the Covid-19 pandemic in the future.

From the results of this study, it can be suggested:

1. Weaknesses encountered, such as the weakness of village officials in understanding laws and regulations, can be done by participating in human resource capacity-building activities for village officials through technical guidance

- activities, seminars, training, workshops, and others related to village government management.
2. Village development programs that were reduced and eliminated during the Covid-19 pandemic so that they can be quickly returned and re-budgeted.
 3. The village fund assistance is further enhanced and optimized to rehabilitate and accelerate the recovery of the community's economic business and the MSME sector affected by Covid-19.
 4. The capacity of the internet network infrastructure must be increased again to anticipate teaching and learning for students and teachers, including parents, in the online learning system.
 5. Village officials must continuously carry out more intensive socialization and information programs to motivate the community to get out of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis faster.

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