

Transformation of District/City Response Patterns for Child Protection during Post Covid-19, Case Study of Central Java Province, Indonesia

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Abstract

Covid-19 for three years has become an inseparable part of the lives of urban and rural communities. The impact occurs, such as the impact of Covid-19 on children. Children are a vulnerable part of society during a pandemic, about the conditions for their health, education, and protection. The role of the city in carrying out its duties as a public servant is important, where all stakeholders have an important role. Central Java, one of the provinces affected by Covid-19 has responded well with its adaptive programs. This research was conducted with a quantitative approach with a quantitative descriptive method, starting with an analysis of the role of stakeholders and programs related to Covid-19 prevention for children. The results of the analysis are continued by looking at the spatial pattern between cities and districts. Research data is taken from primary surveys through FGD and document review. The results of the study identify that not all city/district areas have a response to child protection during the Covid-19 pandemic, urban areas are more responsive to this condition. Increasing the role of protection for children during a pandemic is an important part of the process of returning to the new normal.

Keywords: Covid-19; children; response; city

Introduction

Covid-19 has claimed many lives and changed the order of life in many fields (OECD, 2020). Two years after the first cases were detected in late 2019, the disease has infected more than two hundred million people and caused more than five million deaths worldwide (WHO, 2021). The Covid-19 pandemic is not just a health crisis, millions of people have lost their income and even jobs because of the policy of limiting social activities to prevent more severe transmission. The pandemic exacerbated existing social inequalities and disrupted services for regions and cities.

Cities, where most people live, are a typical representation of humans living in a society. Individuals build their lives through interaction and cooperation with others; some exchange goods in the market for economic activity, and others achieve results that cannot be achieved alone but collectively (Kang, et.al., 2020). The rapid growth of urban areas around the world, but especially in developing countries, is also expanding the capacity of local and regional governments and institutions to provide adequate infrastructure and services to their residents (Güneralp, et.al., 2020).

Disease restructured urban expansion over centuries, redistributing

populations across space. The rapid increase in urban populations at lower latitudes poses new risks. The increasing number of new cities especially in developing countries, causes very dense settlements, creating potential risks and vulnerabilities in terms of the emergence of communicable diseases and close contact between people creating hotspots for their rapid spread (Gupta, et.al., 2022).

The growth of residential areas with high density illustrates the availability of settlements that is not proportional to the speed of urban population growth and limited land. This is shown by 55 percent of the world's population living in urban areas and is predicted to reach 68 percent in 2050 (Bocquier, 2005). The spread of Covid-19 which has become a pandemic will be a challenge for densely populated communities. The government's policy to deal with Covid-19 by reducing the intensity of leaving the house is difficult for residents of dense settlements to avoid. Snyder is quoted in Hutama, et. al. (2020) considering space constraints, overcrowding makes physical distancing and quarantine activities ineffective, so the spread of virus infection is very likely to occur quickly. This means that Covid-19 is spreading more quickly in larger cities on average with the added implication that, in an uncontrolled outbreak, a large proportion of the population is expected to become infected in more densely populated urban areas. This condition emphasizes the need to apply a more aggressive distancing policy in big cities while also maintaining socioeconomic activities (Stier, et.al., 2020).

In the areas of cities and health, the complexity of cities is reflected by the many initiatives and city-wide networks that try to address key problems. Focusing on children or other targeted sub-populations can be seen as supporting this fragmentation. The concept of a healthy city from Antonovsky in Brown, et.al. (2019) includes 'Saluto genesis' which means the city as a place to protect people from disease and support the creation and maintenance of health. A healthy city is

also an inclusive place; caters to the needs of all regardless of age, gender, income, status, or ethnicity. In this research, the focus will be on children and diseases, especially Covid-19. Therefore, urban planning that focuses on the healthy development of children will provide benefits for decades, and influence future generations as well as present generations. The economic and social benefits of a lifelong approach are especially significant in terms of healthier populations (Wood, 2016) (UNICEF, 2012).

Another impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in urban and rural areas is the fulfillment of children's rights, especially in the provision of basic services such as health, education, child protection, and poverty alleviation. Regional capabilities and readiness in responding to this condition vary, such as the readiness of educational facilities to organize learning or sell online (Shofiana, 2020) (Irawati, et.al., n.d.) (Imawan & Purwanto, 2020). The range of the pandemic is likely to continue soon as the psychological and academic trajectory unfolds over time. The challenge of disease prevention – a particular challenge for children: involving the community in planning and decision-making, together with efficiently educating parents and children, has proven beneficial when implementing public health strategies (Ashikkali, et.al., 2020).

The quick response from the government as the decision maker focus on the dimensions of the basic needs of children. The indicators of this policy include education such as average length of schooling, school year expectancy, school dropout rate, gross enrolment rate, pure enrolment rate, school enrolment rate, and continuing rate. Health such as the Prevalence of children exposed to Covid-19, the Prevalence of complete basic immunization coverage, Prevalence of Covid-19 vaccine coverage. Child Protection such as Child Protection Index, Index of Fulfilment of Children's Rights & Child Special Protection Index.

The condition of Covid-19 since it was first detected in Indonesia in early March 2020, Covid-19 has infected and caused hundreds of thousands of deaths. In Central Java Province, more than 6 million cases were recorded until June 2023 including children (Province, n.d.). The selection of Central Java Province in the study was based on the characteristics of Central Java, such as having a large and heterogeneous population in various demographic groups, such as based on age, gender, economic status, and health conditions. Apart from that, Central Java has a variety of urban and rural areas, which have a combination of large urban areas, such as Semarang and Solo, as well as large rural areas. This variation allows for the study of the differences in the impact of Covid-19 in areas with different levels of urbanization. Meanwhile, for the spread of Significant Cases during the pandemic, Central Java is a province with a significant number of Covid-19 cases in Indonesia. This makes this province relevant to the focus of studies on the spread, handling, and impact of the pandemic.

The response of the central and regional governments is implementing various policies to reduce the potential for transmission and death such as requiring adherence to health protocols (wearing masks, keeping a safe distance, and washing hands), limiting activities in several sectors (trade and services, education, and offices). These policies impacted the outcomes of other sectors such as trade, education, and tourism. In these areas, many people who depend on these sectors have experienced a decline in income and even lost their livelihoods (Wijaya, et.al., 2021).

Covid-19 in Central Java was detected in the city of Solo on March 13, 2020. In the same month, learning from home began. Movement in and out of the area began to be restricted. The Governor formed the Task Force for handling Covid-19 down to *Rukun Warga* level. Non-critical sector activities began to be restricted. At the

end of the first half of 2020 (Province, n.d.), face-to-face learning is allowed with strict health protocols for areas with green vulnerability zones which are then expanded to yellow vulnerability zones in the second semester. In mid-2021, there was a spike in cases in Indonesia and Central Java itself until the Imposition of Emergency Community Activity Restrictions (PPKM) was enacted. Along with the improving conditions and the handling carried out by the Central Java Provincial government, the total to date (June 2023) has reported cases reaching 626,762 cases and declared cured and 34,290 patients died. The condition of Covid-19 in Central Java almost completely impacts the age line from adults to children. Data for 2022 cases of Covid-19 occurring in children aged 1-18 years are quite dominating. It is important to address the impact on children by analyzing data on aspects of education, health, and child protection.

This research answers how cities and regencies respond to the Covid-19 pandemic for children. There have been several studies that have looked at the impact of the pandemic on children as stated (Ashikkali, et.al., 2020; Benner & Mistry, 2020; Lawson, et.al., 2020) which focuses on the child physically and mentally. On the other hand, Covid-19 and the growth of urban districts discuss a lot of infrastructure where digital is the subject of much discussion (Corburn, et.al., 2020; Florida, et.al., 2023; Gupta, et.al., 2022; WHO, 2021). Meanwhile, this research will combine the condition of children affected by Covid-19 with regional responses in dealing with it in Central Java Province. The expected result is a regional response pattern where cities and regencies will have different responses to Covid-19 handlers.

Methodology

This research took place in Central Java Province, as it is known that Central Java Province is a densely populated province.

With this density, the risk of Covid-19 is high presentation. On the other hand, children are also of particular concern to the government in a pandemic situation. For the details of the location of the regional samples, taken based on the spatial distribution in the northern, southern, and central parts of Central Java Province, the identification results chose five City Districts to be sampled in this study (Brebes Regency, Semarang City, Pati Regency, Cilacap Regency, and Klaten). The data used is mostly secondary data concerning 3 main aspects that are identified including Education, such as Average Years of Schooling, Expected Years of Schooling, Dropout Rates, Gross Enrolment Rates, Pure Enrolment Rates, School Enrolment Rates, and Continuation Rates. Health such as the Prevalence of children exposed to Covid-19, the Prevalence of complete basic immunization coverage, the Prevalence of coverage of Covid-19 vaccine, and Child Protection such as the Child Protection Index, Index of Fulfilment of Children's Rights & Child Special Protection Index.

Analyzing the Performance Achievements of the Convention on the Rights and Policies of the Child, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the 2018-2023 Central Java Provincial Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMD) as the reference for this impact analysis. Understanding these three things as well as reports and research related to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children resulted in a list of issues to be discussed. These issues are grouped into five dimensions of discussion, specifically health, poverty, education, child protection, and the environment.

The research stages began with the collection of documents and data from planning documents and supporting data taken from statistical data and reports from BPS or related agencies such as the United Nations Children Funds (UNICEF), Ministries/Institutions, and related Regional Government Organizations. to see the trend of Development achievements related to

Covid-19. The results of interviews with interviews and in-depth discussions about local governments.

The analysis began with the identification of Performance Indicators and achievements and continued with the calculation of performance achievements. This data analysis shows the trend of the problems discussed from conditions before the pandemic to after the pandemic. Along the way, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the current child protection policy has shifted to a child recovery policy. The child recovery policy focuses on 3 areas, to be specific education, health, and child protection. The explanation is followed by an analysis of the causes or root causes of the problem and the subsequent impacts if not addressed, supported by the results of FGDs with stakeholders. The results of the analysis in several study areas were grouped to form a regional response pattern with their respective characteristics.

The selection of data collection and analysis methods considers that the government does not yet have an emergency policy in handling Covid-19 so that regional readiness in formulating policies is not entirely appropriate and varies.

Results

Regional Response to Covid-19 for Children

1. Cilacap Regency

The establishment of a national emergency status due to the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia has made the government work even harder to suppress the spread of Sars-Cov-2, the virus that carries severe pneumonia. The Cilacap Regency Government is also rushing to take strategic steps. First, forming a task force that specifically serves public complaints, and provides factual and actual information about the prevention and handling of Covid-19 in Cilacap Regency. The application of

process-based policy innovations places more emphasis on improving the quality of work processes internally and externally, from various stakeholders which are carried out efficiently and effectively. The working mechanisms of public organizations which tend to be slow, convoluted, and complicated are changed to working mechanisms that are fast, precise, and productive. The purpose of process-based policy innovation is that the community gets renewal in service following excellent service standards. The following is the application of process policy innovations that have been carried out by the Cilacap Regency Government in the prevention and control of Covid-19, that is building an application system based on internet and intranet information technology to present information, data and visualization regarding the spread, prevention and control of pandemics.

a. Educational Aspects

Conduct data collection for children who do not attend school (*ATS/Anak Tidak Sekolah/Number of Out of School Children*) in Cilacap Regency to record children who have dropped out of school, children who have not attended school, and children who do not continue school so that ATS can be handled in accordance with the data collection carried out. The results of the investigation into the data on children not attending school showed that the main cause was household finances being disrupted by Covid-19, where parents or the family's source of income were lost.

b. Health Aspect

Continuing complete basic immunization services in Cilacap Regency to pursue IDL (*Imunisasi Dasar Lengkap/Complete Basic Immunization*) status in Cilacap Regency which had declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in 2021 (69.93%). In 2022 Cilacap Regency will

carry out the National Immunization Month (*BIAN/Bulan Imunisasi Anak Nasional*) immunization program which has succeeded in increasing the IDL status in Cilacap Regency to 105.73%. Continuing Covid-19 vaccination services for children up to dose 2. Strengthening adaptive systems for providing and monitoring nutrition services to prevent service disruptions during times of crisis. Improving services for stunting babies in Cilacap Regency with the "Kacing Merah" program.

c. Aspects of Child Social Protection

The social protection of children that have been carried out by the Cilacap Regency Government is by providing assistance and compensation to children affected by Covid-19. During the Covid-19 pandemic, which has been almost 2 years, more people have been affected and have died, and not a few children in Cilacap Regency have become orphans because their parents have died due to the Covid-19 virus. For this reason, the Maos District Covid Task Force, Cilacap Regency, and Pertamina Maos are holding social services by helping orphans affected by Covid-19 and the community who are carrying out *isoman (isolasi mandiri)*. Assistance and compensation for orphans affected by Covid-19 totaling 19 children. The form of food package assistance is in the form of 5 kg of rice, 1 liter of oil, milk, canned bread and shopping vouchers of Rp300 thousand. The Social Rehabilitation Assistance Program (*ATENSI/Asistensi Rehabilitasi Sosial*) launched by the Ministry of Social Affairs can be developed optimally by inviting the community to participate, by mobilizing various potential sources that can be utilized to provide social protection for orphan victims of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Brebes Regency

To reduce the development of the Covid-19 case in Brebes Regency, since May 6 2020 Brebes Regency has established Community Activity Restrictions (PKM/*Pembatasan Kegiatan Masyarakat*). Restrictions on Community Activities (PKM) in Brebes Regency are valid for 28 days. The first restriction is in the form of limiting activities outside the home. Second, restrictions on the implementation of activities in schools and/or other educational institutions. Third, restrictions on work activities in the workplace. Fourth, restrictions on religious activities in places of worship. Fourth, restrictions on activities in public places. Fifth, restrictions on social and cultural activities, and sixth, restrictions on the movement of people using public transportation modes. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in Brebes Regency was felt in various sectors including the economy, health, education, child protection, and so on. In addition, it does not only affect adults but children in Brebes Regency are also affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The application of process-based policy innovations places more emphasis on improving the quality of work processes internally and externally, from various stakeholders which are carried out efficiently and effectively. The working mechanisms of public organizations which tend to be slow, convoluted, and complicated are changed to working mechanisms that are fast, precise, and productive. The purpose of process-based policy innovation is that the community gets renewed in service in accordance with excellent service standards. The following is the implementation of process policy innovations that have been carried out by the Brebes Regency Government in the prevention and control of Covid-19, namely building an application system based on internet and intranet information technology to present information, data, and visualization regarding the spread, prevention, and control.

a. Educational Aspects

The Brebes Regency Government built facilities and infrastructure for a Clean and Healthy Lifestyle (PHBS/ *Perilaku Hidup Bersih Sehat*) in the school environment. For 2022, the Brebes Regency Government through Dindikpora Brebes has issued the GKB (*Gerakan Kembali Sekolah*) budget in 2 stages, specifically stage 1 by disbursing Rp546,900,000 with recipients of 995 children from education levels including 216 SD/MI, 424 SMP/MTs and SMA/MTs. SMK/MA totaled 355 children. Meanwhile, in the second stage, the GKB assistance budget was Rp. 477,300,000, recipients of 862 children (215 SD/MI children, 308 SMP/MTs children, and 339 SMA/SMK/MA children). The hybrid class learning program for junior high schools from underprivileged families was launched by the Acting Regent of Brebes on May 2, 2023, in the context of National Education Day (*Hardiknas*) in 2023. At the launch of this first year, 3 schools were used as pilot projects, to be specific SMP Negeri 5 Brebes, SMP Negeri 2 Kenggungan, and SMP Negeri 3 Bumiayu. The purpose of holding hybrid classes is for underprivileged families who go to school far away or students help their parents in the morning and afternoon so they cannot go to school. In the future, this hybrid class learning will be carried out in 17 districts.

b. Health Aspect

Several partners have played a role in helping to improve the nutritional status of toddlers in Banjarharjo District in the form of giving eggs. To pursue and complete the basic immunization status, Brebes Regency is carrying out a national program, namely the National Immunization Month (*BIAN*) program which will be implemented in 2022. The

government is moving quickly to prepare for the expansion of the Covid-19 vaccine program after BPOM granted permission for the emergency use of vaccines for children aged 6 – 11 years. The plan is to vaccinate children in Indonesia starting in 2022 in regencies/cities that have reached the target dose of 1 for more than 70% of the total target and more than 60% of the elderly population (elderly). Likewise, the Brebes Regency has reached 70% of the total vaccination target.

The Brebes Regency Health Office together with 38 Community Health Centers throughout Brebes Regency carried out the Covid-19 Vaccination Activities in Elementary Schools in each area in the Brebes area. Health workers will start vaccination in the second week of January 2022. The Covid-19 vaccine used has been clinically tested by BPOM and also recommendations from the Indonesian Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (ITAGI) and the implementation of this vaccination will be carried out in stages.

c. Aspects of Child Protection

In the Covid-19 situation, the Brebes Government and cross-sectoral institutions and partners work hand in hand to help and try to ease the burden on children in Brebes Regency through material and immaterial assistance, especially children whose parents have been affected by Covid-19 and continue their schooling through affirmations. One of the programs carried out is the provision of compensation and scholarships for orphans outside the orphanage. Compensation for orphans outside the Brebes Regency orphanage is an annual program. This program was implemented as a form of concern for the Government of Brebes Regency for school-age orphans outside the

orphanage. DP3KB (Dinas Pemberdayaan Perlindungan Perempuan dan Keluarga Berencana) Brebes Regency Collaborates with the Brebes Regency Amilzakat Agency (Baznas) to distribute school package assistance and pocket money to children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19 in 2021. The Regent of Brebes, Chair of the Brebes Regency Baznas, and Secretary of the DP3KB Brebes Regency provided compensation symbolically in Losari and Bulakamba Districts (Figure 3). The Covid-19 pandemic, which will soon end, has left several problems, including many new orphans or orphans due to the death of their parents from Covid-19. This assistance is intended for orphans/orphans/orphans whose parents died because of Covid-19.

3. Pati Regency

Pati Regency Data as of February 12 2021 shows the number of positive confirmed cases in Pati Regency at the same time as many as 1,986 people with details of 48 being treated, 1,614 recovered and 324 died. This condition caused Pati Regency to become one of the most highlighted areas during the Covid-19 pandemic. Cases of Covid-19 at the age of 18 and under are low, that is 56 cases or 3.2%. The cases of Covid-19 in the age group 19 years and over are very high, specifically 1685 cases or 96.8%. Most cases of Covid-19 were in the age group 46-59 years, that is 637 people (36.59%) followed by the age group 31-45 years, namely 482 people (27.69%). Furthermore, the age group of 60+ years or the elderly was 354 people (20.33%).

The application of process-based policy innovations places more emphasis on improving the quality of work processes internally and externally, from various stakeholders which are carried out efficiently and effectively. The working mechanisms of public organizations which tend to be slow,

convoluted, and complicated are changed to working mechanisms that are fast, precise, and productive. The purpose of process-based policy innovation is that the community gets renewed in service by excellent service standards. The following is the application of process policy innovations that have been carried out by the Pati Regency government.

a. Educational Aspects

Re-open schools as soon as possible while still implementing health protocols, increasing the coverage and quality of distance learning, and prioritizing universal internet access. The level of learning lag also needs to be studied as a basis for preparing programs and campaigns to overcome them. Accelerate investment in sanitation and handwashing facilities and strengthen capacity to promote good handwashing practices at community, household, school, and health facility levels.

b. Health Aspect

At the end of 2022, the Vaccination Program for Children aged 6-11 years was implemented at the Pati District Hall and attended by the Regent of Pati, Deputy Regent of Pati, Forkopimda (Local Coordination Forum), all Heads of Health Centers and Health Office of Pati Regency. Pati Regency cumulatively has reached the target of more than 70% and for vaccination of the elderly more than 60%. The target of 225,000 children's vaccinations consists of public and private elementary schools. To facilitate data collection, the Pati Regency Government is also working with the Pati Regency Education and Culture Office. The number of students in public elementary schools is 80,135 and 5,632 in private schools. So, the total is 85,767 students. The type of vaccine used is Sinovac because the side effects are

milder than other types of vaccines. And then it will be assisted by the Community Health Centers in each region for the implementation of vaccinations. This became a concern after seeing data on immunizations for toddlers which had decreased during the Covid-19 pandemic. He (Head of Planning Agency) mentioned that the target of 100% of toddlers in Pati Regency receiving immunization, in 2020 it could only reach 99%, and then it would decrease again in 2021 to 98%.

c. Aspects of Child Protection

Pati Regency received a package of assistance or compassion from the Central Java National Amil Zakat Agency (Baznas) together with Baznas Pati in December 2021. They are orphans, aged between 8 and 13 whose parents died of Covid-19 19. The forms of assistance provided included school equipment, honey, snacks, and supplies for daily needs. Baznas is one of the institutions that during the Covid-19 pandemic has provided a lot of caring assistance starting from education, house renovations and productive economic assistance. Expanding the scope and benefits of child-focused social protection programs, so that the program can be accessed by all Indonesian families during times of crisis. Carry out protective measures to detect, prevent and deal with violence against children and other vulnerable groups; provide mental health and psychosocial support to all children and caregivers.

4. Klaten Regency

Klaten Regency as a region of Central Java Province cannot be separated from the impact of Covid-19. Klaten Regency declared an Extraordinary Event (KLB/Kejadian Luar Biasa) on April 1, 2020, after 1 patient was found to be positive for

Covid-19. Developments of COVID-19 in Klaten Regency up to June 24, 2023, the number of positive confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Klaten Regency has reached 28,571 people. Furthermore, there are 1,099 people died from COVID-19, 577 were actively positive (being treated), and 26,895 people were declared cured. Regarding Covid-19 cases in children, cases were found in April with 18 cases, in May there were 46 cases and in June there were 11 cases in 2021. Under these conditions, the local government's attention to children is increased by limiting schools and vaccinating children. The Covid-19 pandemic in Klaten Regency has had several impacts on various sectors, including the Education, Health, and child protection sectors. Several indicators for assessing the impact of Covid-19 in Klaten Regency.

The application of process-based policy innovations places more emphasis on improving the quality of work processes internally and externally, from various stakeholders which are carried out efficiently and effectively. The working mechanisms of public organizations which tend to be slow, convoluted, and complicated are changed to working mechanisms that are fast, precise, and productive. The purpose of process-based policy innovation is that the community gets renewed in service following excellent service standards. The following is the application of process policy innovations that have been carried out by the Klaten Regency Government in preventing and controlling Covid-19, that is building an application system based on internet and intranet information technology to provide information, data, and visualization regarding the spread, prevention, and control of pandemic.

a. Educational Aspects

The Klaten Regency Government built facilities and infrastructure for a Clean and Healthy Lifestyle (PHBS) in the school environment. At the time of

entering the period of adaptation to new habits, where learning methods in schools have started trials of learning offline, the Klaten Regency Government requires every school to provide PHBS facilities and infrastructure, one of which is the aspect of washing hands with soap (CTPS/*Cuci Tangan Pakai Sabun*/wash hands with soap), requiring the use of masks, and temperature checking when entering the room as an effort to prevent the transmission of the Covid-19 virus from the school cluster.

b. Health Aspect

The Klaten Regency Government's efforts in dealing with toddler stunting are through the "Gong Cething" or "Gotong Royong Atasi Stunting" program. The pattern of intervention provided is in the form of regular education related to stunting and its prevention by partner universities, as well as interventions for providing supplementary food for stunted children with the concept of "cething" where the food served is varied and contains several nutrients needed for stunted children. The government moved quickly to prepare for the expansion of the Covid-19 vaccine program after BPOM granted permission for the emergency use of the vaccine for children aged 6-11 years. Vaccination of children in Indonesia will start in 2022 in regencies/cities that have reached the target dose of 1 more than 70% of the total target and more than 60% of the elderly population (elderly). Likewise, Klaten Regency has reached 70% of the total vaccination target.

c. Aspects of Child Protection

In the Covid-19 situation, the Klaten Regency Government and cross-sectoral institutions and partners work together to help and try to ease the burden on children in Klaten Regency

through material and immaterial assistance, especially children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19 and continue their schooling through affirmations. To provide education to the public so that people are willing to report cases of violence against children, the Klaten Regency government has made innovations in the form of Sosiprak (Socialization through *ketoprak*) and the KaTca KeTawa online service (Apps Talk for Mental Health). The Covid-19 pandemic has caused many new orphans or orphans due to the death of their parents due to Covid-19. Therefore, a school package distribution program is needed. This program is assistance for orphans/orphans/orphans whose parents died because of Covid-19.

5. Semarang City

Semarang City as one of the areas affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, based on data as of June 2023, the number of positive confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Semarang City has reached 35,253, and 3,760 people have died, and 31,493 people have been declared cured. This number is relatively high considering that Semarang City is one of the big cities on the island of Java which has a high level of mobility. These impacts can be attached to life in some children. The first response of the Semarang City Government to the needs and protection of children is to stop school activities and other educational institutions and vaccinate children. Follow-up programs after Covid-19 will concentrate on the aspects of education, health and child protection.

The application of process-based policy innovations places more emphasis on improving the quality of work processes internally and externally, from various stakeholders which are carried out efficiently and effectively. The working mechanisms of public organizations which tend to be slow, convoluted, and complicated are changed to

working mechanisms that are fast, precise, and productive. The purpose of process-based policy innovation is that the community gets renewed in service by excellent service standards. The following is the application of process policy innovations that have been carried out by the City Government of Semarang in the prevention and control of Covid-19, specifically building an application system based on internet and intranet information technology to present information, data, and visualization regarding the spread, prevention and control of Covid-19 in Semarang City which consists of three applications. The three applications consist of the alert corona.semarangkota.go.id, the Semarang Health Agency application based on social media (Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook), and a special application for health workers in handling Covid-19, that is the Isolation Hospital Information Management System (SIM- hospital).

a. Educational Aspects

Re-open schools as soon as possible while still implementing health protocols, increasing the coverage and quality of distance learning, and prioritizing universal internet access. The level of learning lag also needs to be studied as a basis for preparing programs and campaigns to overcome them. Accelerate investment in sanitation and handwashing facilities and strengthen capacity to promote good handwashing practices at community, household, school, and health facility levels.

b. Health Aspect

Continuing essential health services, including follow-up immunization campaigns, and continuing vaccinations for the community. This became his concern after seeing data on immunizations for toddlers that had decreased during the Covid-19 pandemic. He mentioned that from the

target of 100% of toddlers in Semarang City receiving immunizations, in 2020 it could only reach 99%, and then it would decrease again in 2021 to 98%. Strengthen adaptive systems for providing and monitoring nutrition services to prevent service bottlenecks in times of crisis.

c. Aspects of Child Social Protection

Expanding the scope and benefits of child-focused social protection programs, so that the program can be accessed by all Indonesian families during times of crisis. Carry out protective measures to detect, prevent and deal with violence against children and other vulnerable groups; provide mental health and psychosocial support to all children and caregivers.

Dynamics of Urban and Rural Areas in Response to Covid-19

Overall, although urban areas have more resources to deal with Covid-19, their main challenge is controlling the rapid spread due to population density. Meanwhile, in rural areas, the biggest challenge is limited health infrastructure and access to information and vaccination, which requires a special approach in efforts to prevent and control Covid-19. The impact of Covid-19 on the education sector in urban and rural areas is quite different because both have differences in access to technology, education infrastructure, and readiness to implement distance learning. Meanwhile, the aspect of child health. The impact of Covid-19 in urban and rural areas is quite different due to differences in access to health services, environmental conditions, and social support.

Table 1. The Pattern of City/Rural Responses

No.	Aspects	Urban	Rural
1.	Education Access to Education	Better access due to more adequate infrastructure, by having internet access.	Access to online learning in rural areas is much more limited. Many rural areas still experience problems with weak internet connections or even no internet access at all.
	Quality of education	Many schools have the resources to create engaging and interactive learning materials. Children are complaining of boredom and stress from having to learn from home for long periods without face-to-face interaction.	The learning process often decreases drastically due to the limited methods that can be used.
2.	Health Access to Health Services	Children in urban areas generally have better access to health services. Vaccine distribution is faster.	In rural areas, access to health services is more limited. The handling of children with special needs is difficult to access. Low public awareness of the importance of vaccines.

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No.	Aspects	Urban	Rural
	Exposure to COVID-19	The risk of exposure to COVID-19 is higher due to high mobility and interaction between residents.	Lower risk of exposure but low awareness of health protocols.
3.	Child Protection Risk of Domestic Violence	Urban social distancing and lockdown policies have increased economic and psychological stress on families, leading to an increased risk of domestic violence.	The pandemic has also worsened the situation of families who are already economically vulnerable, sometimes pushing children to work to help the family or even face the risk of early marriage.
	Assistance Programs and Social Networks	Government and non-governmental aid programs are more likely to reach children in urban areas	Socialization of children's rights and child protection campaigns are often less carried out in rural areas.

Discussion

This research has several implications that can inform evolving national, regional, and local responses to Covid-19 outbreaks and the specifics affecting children. From the point of view of city-first development, it is very important for major cities to act quickly to overcome this epidemic. Second, social distancing will affect cities differently based on city size (Stier, et.al., 2020). The conditions in Central Java also have the same characteristics where the size of the city and district places a different emphasis on handling. For example, urban areas have stricter protocols than rural areas. At the same time, after the outbreak subsides, social distancing policies in small towns can be relaxed first, allowing a quicker return to normal life and economic activity compared to more densely populated urban areas (Couclelis, 2020).

The city's response to the impact of Covid-19 on children around the world took unprecedented action by imposing a lockdown, which in turn required children to carry out every part of their daily life at home. After the lockdown was lifted, children's educational settings were replaced by online classes instead of attending school, and recreational activities were limited to indoors or to nearby playgrounds and parks (Kang, et.al., 2020). Central Java is also carrying out

the program. What is noteworthy is how the education curriculum that has been prepared has not fully accommodated infrastructure in areas where not all areas have internet access, this condition is due to the different service coverage in cities and rural areas (Gupta, et.al., 2022; Sirkeci & Yucesahin, 2020). This condition makes government programs adapted to the region. The result of this system is that there is learning loss where the child's ability to understand lessons is reduced and in rural areas, the number is relatively higher.

The aspect of child protection where one of the affected groups of children is orphans victims of the Covid-19 pandemic is also related to welfare. Mallon (2005, in Astuti, 2014: 217) looks at orphans who are victims of the Covid-19 pandemic and really need a family with conducive conditions. Therefore, the government needs to facilitate these orphans to get care in families that can bring them to prosperity, that is families that can meet the needs of children, can provide proper education, and can facilitate children with adequate range of physical and mental needs of caregivers. Pancawati in (Florida et al., 2023). mentioned that the expected role of the government in handling orphans due to Covid-19 is to provide scholarships, then provide a guarantee of life or provide work if the orphans are adults.

In the health aspects that affect children during a pandemic as discussed in (Ashikkali, et.al., 2020; Benner & Mistry, 2020; Lawson, et.al., 2020) emphasis on children's basic needs such as immunization and vaccination is the main program. The conditions in Central Java the immunization and vaccination programs experienced different conditions in each urban district. Fulfilling basic immunization needs with the Covid-19 pandemic, almost all regions in Indonesia, including Central Java Province, are experiencing obstacles. Social restrictions and refocusing of budget allocations are obstacles in the process of administering immunizations to children in the regions. Meanwhile, vaccination for children in anticipation of Covid-19, the main obstacle is ensuring that vaccination is safe for children. Another health impact from the presence of Covid-19 for affected children is long covid, until now there is no accurate information for this data.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected efforts to fulfill children's rights, including in Central Java Province. The increasing challenges in efforts to reduce poverty and unequal access to basic services and infrastructure from before the pandemic have had a major impact on communities with high economic and social vulnerability. Even though Indonesia has experienced dealing with similar outbreaks before, the huge impact caused by this pandemic has hampered health services, other basic services, and economic and social activities and affected people's lives including children. The pandemic has disrupted the usual health services that children receive, such as monitoring of malnutrition and immunization. If this disruption is allowed to continue, it can affect the health and development of children in the future. Regional responses vary, urban areas are more prepared than rural areas with more adequate infrastructure for

aspects of education, health, and child protection.

From the analysis described above, the following are several recommendations that policymakers can consider accelerating the restoration of the fulfilment of the rights of children affected by the pandemic. The first one is expanding the social safety net for children affected by Covid-19. Local governments can invite funding sources or other organizations that can provide non-material support to be jointly involved in the recovery program for the welfare of children affected by Covid-19. Second, improve access to basic services and infrastructure that are responsive to infectious disease control and child-friendly. Third, strengthening the capacity of stakeholders in program planning and monitoring. Fourth, strengthening the role of society in fulfilling children's rights.

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