

## The Paradigm of Intervention Policing in Emergency in the Covid-19 Pandemic

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### Abstract

*This article aims to analyze the practice of policing in the emergency situation of the Covid-19 pandemic. In an emergency situation, the practice of policing by emphasizing the paradigm of democratic policing or community policing is not effective and fast enough as a strategy in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic emergency situation. The method used in this study is in the form of literature review, and secondary data. This article concludes that the policing paradigm in overseeing the implementation of policies to control the spread of the covid-19 virus uses an intervention policing paradigm, which is a combination of values or norms-based settings in the community with regulations based on the legitimacy of the police authority. Intervention policing is carried out with interventions in the psychological and social sectors.*

### Keywords

pandemic; policing; intervention



### I. Introduction

In the Covid-19 pandemic, the role of the police is faced with challenges that were never expected and unprecedented. The report written by The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) notes that the Covid-19 pandemic has made the role of the police increasingly complex as the frontline in society to deal with difficulties, tensions, anxiety and even differences of opinion between communities in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. (Den Boer, et.al., 2019). In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, in general, the security sector, including the police, is involved in the processes of controlling and overcoming the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic. The outbreak of this virus has an impact of a nation and Globally (Ningrum et al, 2020). The presence of Covid-19 as a pandemic certainly has an economic, social and psychological impact on society (Saleh and Mujahiddin, 2020). Covid 19 pandemic caused all efforts not to be as maximal as expected (Sihombing and Nasib, 2020).

The Covid-19 pandemic has found its relevance in security studies, especially regarding non-traditional security threats. Non-traditional security is a conception of security threats that is not only limited to conventional security issues but also concerns other issues such as crises in the health sector such as the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, security threats are essentially comprehensive in terms of protection against threats aimed at human existence in various fields such as social, political, economic, environmental and health (Buzan, 1991). The involvement of the security sector such as the National Police has intensified in line with the escalation of the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In Indonesia, regulations that provide legitimacy for the National Police to be involved in dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic were initiated through Presidential Decree No. 7 of 2020 concerning the Task Force for the Acceleration of Handling Covid-19 and Presidential Decree No. 12 of 2020 concerning the Determination of Non-Natural

Disasters Spreading Covid-19 as National Disasters. At its peak, the escalation of the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic which increasingly endangers the community, the government issued Government Regulation No. 21 of 2020 concerning Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) in the Context of Accelerating the Handling of Covid-19. This policy is practically carried out by insulating at regional boundaries, limiting the mobility of residents between cities, implementing work from home in office activities, closing entertainment venues, markets, schools and places of worship (Kustiningsih & Nurhadi in Mas'udi & Winanti, eds., 2020). In this perspective, there is a dilemma in handling COVID-19, namely guaranteeing the freedom of people's rights and protecting public health (Lay in Mas'udi & Winanti, eds., 2020).

In this context, the National Police institution is a government institution that spearheads the implementation of regulations imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic. In general, in the midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the National Police carried out several humanitarian operations in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, including: First, Medical Handling Operations by providing health facilities, deploying medical personnel from their personnel; Second, law enforcement operations in border areas, security of aid logistics routes/social safety nets, security of public facilities and enforcement of public health protocol discipline; Third, the National Police conducts security for the distribution of medical equipment and logistical assistance to the community and public kitchens, coordinates volunteers, etc.

In its development, the involvement of the Police in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic has sparked pros and cons in the public. The KontraS institution, for example, released a release published in June 2021, assessing that the involvement of the security sector such as the Police and the TNI has led to increased human rights violations and threats to the democratic order. KontraS sees that the involvement of these security institutions is far from humanistic and tends to show the apparatus' repressive attitude towards civilians. For example, incidents of persecution, arbitrary arrests, shooting of water cannons to disperse crowds, intimidation of residents, and forced dispersal. (CNN, July 2021).

This article is intended to "fill" research gaps regarding the discourse on policing models in emergency situations such as the Covid-19 pandemic. The question posed in this article is what is the model of policing in an emergency situation facing the Covid-19 pandemic? Therefore, researchers conducted an analysis of the paradigm of democratic policing or community policing to see effectiveness and efficiency during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, this article proposes an intervention policing style as a strategy for implementing policing in emergency situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **II. Research Method**

The involvement of the security sector such as the police in dealing with health threats is not something new. In Nigeria, during the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, the British colonial government involved the police (West African Royal Police) in order to support the task of health authorities in conducting house-to-house tracing and tracing and maintaining security and order in the midst of the Spanish Flu outbreak Police involvement (West African Royal Police) is also considered ineffective or counter productive in the community. (Oluwasegun, 2015).

In the US, in the same case during the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, the police were also involved in dealing with the threat of the Spanish Flu pandemic. As in the Police in Nigeria, the police in the US are also counter-productive in carrying out their duties and functions to maintain the continuity of the regulations established during the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic (Ghendon, 1994; Price, 2020; New York City Police Department, 2019). Police involvement does not only occur during a pandemic, but also during an epidemic. As happened in West African countries during the 2015 Ebola epidemic, as well as in Brazil during the 2015 Zika epidemic. In these countries, the effectiveness of police involvement is closely related to the political conditions in each country.

However, the history of police involvement in dealing with emergency health crisis situations has not always been counter-productive. For example, the National Police of the Republic of Sierra Leone is considered successful in creating innovations to overcome the health crisis by establishing an Ebola Training Academy during the health crisis. This Ebola response training was carried out by emphasizing that police officers need to approach policing interventions openly regarding Ebola by involving local communities (Mondeh, 2021; Schnabel, & Kickbusch, 2021). Likewise in Guinea, the role of the police was considered effective during the face of Ebola in 2015. The police in Guinea at that time carried out the main function of protecting medical personnel from the threat of attacks by separatist groups and community unrest due to panic in the face of the threat of Ebola (Kargbo, 2021).

Researchers see that the involvement of the police during a health crisis has the potential to be counter-productive in the community. The history of police involvement in dealing with the 1918 Spanish Flu health crisis, the 2015 Ebola epidemic in West Africa, and the 2015 Zika epidemic in Brazil, became counter-productive in society when the role of the police was carried out only on the basis of the legitimacy of the police duties and functions.

On the other hand, the role of the police will be successful in dealing with a health crisis in the community when the police are able to produce innovative policies by emphasizing collaboration between the police and the community. In other words, a combination of values and norms-based settings in the community with regulations based on the legitimacy of the police authority. In this perspective, policing in emergency situations is not limited to policing based on community values and norms which has been emphasized on the democratic policing paradigm model or community policing, but also requires policing based on the legitimacy of the police authority in carrying out its duties and functions.

In the context of the policing model, there are two policing models, namely conventional policing and modern policing (Pramono, 2021). The conventional policing model is the relationship between the police and the community in unequal positions such as superior and inferior or in the subject and object category where the police are nothing but repressive law enforcement officers. The modern policing model is a policing style that sees the relationship between the police and the community on an equal footing. In other words, the community is a partner of the police in an effort to create order and environmental security.

However, the policing model by emphasizing community partnerships in emergency situations in practice faces many challenges and obstacles. This challenge is described by Monica den Boer et.al who sees the role of police officers in the midst of a pandemic being increasingly marginalized. The reason is, in the emergency situation of the Covid-19 pandemic, public panic occurs which is difficult to control so that the policing model that only involves the community becomes counter-productive (Den Boer, et.al., 2019).

### **III. Result and Discussion**

#### **3.1 The Modern Policing Paradigm**

The modern policing paradigm emphasizes the partnership pattern between the police and the community. This paradigm emphasizes the community as the subject and object of security policy. Moreover, partnerships with communities are part of respect for human rights and economic, social and cultural rights. This policing paradigm cannot be separated from the change in the security paradigm which emphasizes the humanitarian aspect (societal security) as the goal of security policy which is translated by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as human security (Anggoro in Al Araf, 2005).

In line with the development of democratization and the development of security policies that lead to aspects of respect for human rights, the modern policing model is directed to make the community as partners in realizing security and public order. Therefore, the development of this modern police model has given birth to various paradigms of policing models in the democratic era, such as democratic policing and community policing.

The democratic policing paradigm is currently the mainstream of the ideal policing model in line with the ongoing democratization and globalization after the second world war (Karnavian and Sulisty, 2012). post-cold war, the role of the police in society was forced to conform to the principle of respect for human rights. In other words, the implementation of police duties and functions is directed at maintaining public security and order. In this perspective, the ideal police officer is the guardian of the community, the protector of the community, and law enforcement by the police is solely aimed at the community. Therefore, the concept of policing is also changing towards what is called democratic policing, namely the philosophical foundation for the police in carrying out their duties and functions by implementing democratic principles and values, namely respect for human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights.

Besides democratic policing, another policing paradigm that was born at the same time as democratization is community policing. The main basis for the implementation of community policing (community policing) is to place the community as the subject and object of the purpose of the police. In other words, efforts to create security and public order need to involve the community. In fact, public trust is an important capital for the duties and functions of the police.

The application of the principles of community policing is carried out based on several principles, including (Kappeler & Gaines, 2011): 1) emphasis on community empowerment in the policing process; 2) consistent collaboration between the police and the community; 3) the police response is collaborative; 4) a strong role of the police in organizing and mobilizing the community; 5) emphasis on decentralization of the police and the continued deployment of police officers in a community; 6) emphasis on sharing authority in community decision-making; 7) emphasis on interpersonal skills of police officers; 8) see the duty of the police to help achieve social goals. One of the objectives of the implementation of community policing is the high level of public trust in the police which can encourage the achievement of safe conditions.

#### **3.2 Policing Intervention in the Covid-19 Pandemic**

In the context of state security, the Covid-19 pandemic shows the large role of the police in various countries. For example in Nigeria, “the high handed approach” shows that the performance of police officers during the pandemic can affect their image in the future. The interesting thing in the case in Nigeria where the public considers the intervention of

the police in the Covid-19 Pandemic shows the unpreparedness of the police which actually results in a negative perception of the handling of the police in the pandemic. Although the community basically still considers this task part of the legitimacy of the police (Aborisade & Ariyo, 2022).

In addition, the police as an instrument of the state are in a dilemma. Vertically, the police are required to enforce government instructions amid the community's resistance and skepticism (Luong, 2021). The above conditions are reinforced by the community paradigm which conceptualizes the presence of the police not only to serve the interests of the state, but also to provide peace in the midst of public panic in an atmosphere of disorder and various impacts that arise. Moreover, the state's preparedness, response and legitimacy are shown by the role of the police during the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Therefore, in the Covid-19 pandemic situation, the role of the police is encouraged to emphasize more on the orientation of the police who are sensitive to the psychological and anthropological aspects of society. In this perspective, the modern policing model that emphasizes the dimensions of human rights and community partnerships cannot be used as the main reference in carrying out police actions during a pandemic (Deivanayagam, et.al, 2021).

In an emergency situation, the effectiveness of the police role is the key to success in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic emergency situation. Thus, the policing model in the midst of a pandemic that emphasizes the humanism aspect is not effective enough because the Covid-19 pandemic encourages the police to be more effective in encouraging the effectiveness of public obedience and compliance with the regulations imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the challenge is that there are still people who do not believe in the existence of Covid-19, which is also an obstacle in implementing a humanism-oriented policing model. Therefore, psychological intervention by the police is needed by providing socialization value to the dangers of the Covid-19 virus (Shadiqi, 2018).

Basically, in an emergency, people tend to be socially and psychologically helpless (Agung, 2020). Therefore, social and psychological intervention is needed. In this perspective, the role of the police as a protector, coach and protector of the community is required to be able to intervene socially or psychologically. The police are also expected to be able to take steps to intervene both in the mindset, attitudes and behavior of the community. The reason is, people in a pandemic situation experience panic due to changes in various sectors of life, especially the economic and social sectors. In fact, the political situation has also changed as a result of widespread economic and social dissatisfaction in the midst of a pandemic (Menzel, 2017). At the same time, the pandemic situation has also given birth to governance that is carried out and takes place outside the corridors of democracy (Lesschaeve, GlaurdiĆ, & Mochtak, 2021). In fact, the pandemic conditions encourage the state to supervise and control the mobilization of citizens.

In an emergency situation in the midst of a pandemic, there is a paradox of tug-of-war for economic and health interests during the COVID-19 pandemic in the community. As a result, Health policies in the midst of a pandemic have given rise to rejection in the community in several countries, including in Indonesia. Although, the international community, through WHO, has a discourse on life in the "new normal" era, the refusal of a number of people still characterizes the policy of limiting community mobilization.

Therefore, during the Covid-19 pandemic emergency, modern policing style that emphasizes partnerships with the community faces challenges and tests in the midst of an emergency that demands a more assertive and interventional police attitude. Because it is

undeniable that the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the relationship between the police and the community (Den Boer et al., 2019). Meanwhile, the police-style strategy in Indonesia in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic is still using a policing style that refers to a normal/stable life order, such as democratic policing and community policing. In fact, the two policing paradigms were born in a relatively safe and stable situation of social and state order so that they are not effectively applied to the Covid-19 pandemic emergency situation.

Therefore, the modern policing style that emphasizes partnerships with the community is less effective as a strategy for dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic in controlling the behavior and mindset of the people who are required to quickly change to adapt to the development of the spread of Covid-19. On the other hand, the policing style that still prioritizes the humanist side and waits for public awareness to actively participate in resolving the spread of Covid-19 has in fact caused the public to be faced with a bad assessment of the spread of Covid-19 itself, resulting in an individualistic nature, and in the end people tend to passively participate in the handling of Covid-19.

The Covid-19 pandemic has in fact increased the escalation of resistance from the community which will actually reduce the legitimacy of the police in the eyes of the public. Meanwhile, in predictive policing, it is felt that the police will only help the problem on the surface by only capitalizing on meta data as the basis for policing policies so that it is not effective and can be directly applied in the community. In other words, in an emergency situation there needs to be real action that can be directly felt by the community. Meanwhile, the use of the democratic policing model is less effective in encouraging community response and participation in accelerating recovery and response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The National Police as the front line in creating a situation of security and public order in the COVID-19 pandemic situation clearly faces serious challenges. Especially when assisting local governments in implementing a number of policies during the Covid-19 pandemic, such as implementing Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB), securing health protocols, and preventing crowds. The reason is that the efforts of the Police through various persuasive actions or law enforcement in order to convince the public that the PSBB or PPKM policy is the right policy in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic is not an easy matter, especially in a crisis situation.

Shahin Mehdizadeh and Katy Kamkar in "Covid-19 and the impact on police services" explain the dilemmas faced by police officers in the midst of a pandemic. The reason is, the role of the police in disciplining policies during the pandemic is not only facing rejection from the community, but also the risk of transmitting the virus for both himself and his family. Meanwhile, the policing paradigm in the democratic era emphasizes the policing strategy that refers to democratic policing and community policing, a democratic-based policing paradigm that is carried out in normal conditions or situations.

Therefore, the relevance of the modern policing paradigm, namely democratic policing or community policing in the midst of a pandemic or emergency, becomes irrelevant or less than optimal when people's life situations take place outside normal conditions. On that basis, the policing style that still prioritizes the humanistic side and waits for public awareness to actively participate in resolving the spread of Covid-19 as emphasized in the concept of democratic policing or community policing is not effective enough. This is because the evidence-based policies communicated by the government regarding the dangers of the COVID-19 virus are not trusted by some people. At its peak,



this distrust gave birth to a passive attitude in participating in efforts to handle and prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

The problem of overcoming the spread of Covid-19, especially in terms of implementing policies that have been set by the government, requires an innovative and responsive strategy so that the policies set by the government can run as expected. Thus, a new approach from the police is needed in terms of maintaining public safety that is more adaptive to emergency situations. The reason is, referring to Zizek in emergency situations, the implementation of police duties and functions emphasizes effectiveness and speed (Zizek, 2020). In this context, the biggest challenge stems from how to convince the public with the established policies. Meanwhile, criticism and polemics are positioned as control tools so that policies are right on target and not misused (Zinn, 1968). In other words, the implementation of policing tasks and functions in emergency situations needs to emphasize the speed and effectiveness aspects.

#### IV. Conclusion

Interventional policing finds a new perspective in police practice that departs from the Covid-19 emergency period in Indonesia. Policing intervention in an emergency is directed at abnormal conditions, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. Policing intervention can be done through intervention in the regulatory sector, institutions (formal and non-formal) and community participation.

Policing intervention in emergency situations is expected to give birth to a more effective and efficient police role in emergency situations so that they can quickly control the uncertain situation in the community. In this case, intervention policing is based on the presence of police officers who are more aware of the conditions and situations on the ground. In the field of inter-agency coordination, the role of the police in the Covid-19 pandemic emergency situation has succeeded in being the initiator in activating the involvement of formal and non-formal institutions to coordinate with each other to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic. In the community sector, the police intervene through partnerships with the community in helping to solve problems in the midst of a pandemic. Meanwhile, in the realm of community participation, the police make efforts to intervene through direct efforts to encourage every individual in the community to participate in government policies in ways that focus more on the characteristics of psychological and social influence.

Finally, the policing paradigm in handling the COVID-19 pandemic or handling emergency situations requires a policing intervention strategy that is based on beliefs, values, and norms prevailing in society. The concept of policing in a pandemic or emergency situation is not enough just to emphasize the regulatory aspect that comes from the legitimacy of the power authorities which emphasizes the aspect of punishment or fines for those who violate the policy. In an emergency situation, a policing intervention model is needed that emphasizes a combination model between values and norms-based settings in the community with regulations based on the legitimacy of the police authority.

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