



Social Assistance Policy during the Covid-19 Pandemic in East Kutai, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to describe and analyze the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 54 of 2020 in Selangkau Village, Kaliorang District, East Kutai Regency. As well as describe and analyze the supporting and inhibiting factors in the program's implementation. The location of the research was conducted at Selangkau Village, Kaliorang District, East Kutai Regency. The data sources are primary data and secondary data. The data collection techniques used were interviews. The data analysis technique in this study uses stages of data collection, condensation, data presentation, and conclusions. The results of the study found that the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village, Kaliorang District, East Kutai Regency, reviewed from the variables of communication, resources, commitment, and coordination, has been successfully implemented by the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 54 of 2020. The implementation of the program has been supported by several factors, namely the existence of complete population data sources, technical instructions, implementation instructions, and rules for the use of funds, having responsible staff, government attention, donors, and the existence of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds from the company. However, inhibiting factors still need to be found, namely lack of communication between staff, lack of supervision from superiors, difficult access, lack of communication with target groups, and inappropriate beneficiary data. It is hoped that this research can contribute ideas and input to implementing the Social Assistance Program in a socially just manner in the future based on laws and regulations for the Selangkau Village Government, Kaliorang District, East Kutai Regency.

Keywords: Covid-19 Pandemic Period, Policy implementation, Social Assistance Program.

1. INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), which emerged in Indonesia in early 2020, has had a negative impact on various aspects of life, one of which is the socio-economic aspect of society. In March 2020, the percentage of poor people in Indonesia increased by 0.37% compared to March 2019 (Muthiah, 202:8). This condition has encouraged the Government to implement various programs in order to provide a social safety net for people affected by COVID-19, especially those with low incomes to reduce the social impact of the crisis.

The social safety net is a coordinated and integrated instrument in a development program aimed at overcoming crises (crash program), which can be a regular development program designed to address various development problems such as inequality, poverty, and underdevelopment. Programs included in the social safety net are considered capable of protecting families from crises caused by disasters, economic problems, and so on (Muthiah, 2021:10).

One of the social safety net programs run by the Indonesian Government during the COVID-19 pandemic is the "Social Assistance Program" which includes Basic Food Social Assistance and Cash Social Assistance. The Government launched the program after Covid-19 was declared a national disaster. The social safety net program is designed to be an economic stimulus for 40% of households with the lowest welfare levels and other groups most affected by COVID-19 (Muthiah, 2021: 8).

In implementing the policy regarding the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kutai Timur Regency Government has issued Regent Regulation Number 32 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Discipline and Law Enforcement of Health Protocols as an Effort to Prevent and Control COVID-19. This regulation was then updated through Regent Regulation Number 4 of 2022. In addition, the Kutai Timur Regency Government has issued Regent Regulation Number 61 of 2020 concerning Procedures for Budgeting, Implementation, Administration, Reporting, Accountability, Monitoring, and Evaluation of Grants and Social Assistance.

Selangkau Village is one of the villages located in Kaliurang District, East Kutai Regency, East Kalimantan Province, which has a population that continues to grow to reach 1,375 people so that the Government is automatically required to be able to meet the welfare of the community sustainably. In the current economic downturn due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government has taken systematic steps by providing stimulus in the form of assistance programs to the community such as Direct Cash Assistance (BLT), Food Staple Assistance (BSP), Family Hope Program (PKH), and others.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Selangkau Village Government implemented the Cash Social Assistance Program (BLT) according to the regulations set by the central and regional governments using Village Funds. However, in the implementation of the social assistance program, it is suspected that there are problems with beneficiaries who are not from the poor and vulnerable community, and there are beneficiaries who also receive other similar social assistance, so this has, of course, caused social jealousy in the community. Therefore, researchers are interested in conducting further research on the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Selangkau Village, Kaliurang District, East Kutai Regency, which is implemented based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 54 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Basic Food Social Assistance and Cash Social Assistance in Handling the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19).

The objectives to be achieved in this study include describing and analyzing the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 54 of 2020 in Selangkau Village, Kaliurang District, East Kutai Regency. As well as to describe and analyze the supporting and inhibiting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 54 of 2020 in Selangkau Village, Kaliurang District, East Kutai Regency.

The benefits of this research are expected to provide academic benefits in developing theories regarding the implementation of public policies related to policies on social assistance during the pandemic based on laws and regulations. In addition, the practical benefits of the results of this study are expected to be input for the Selangkau Village Government, Kaliurang District, East Kutai Regency in implementing the Social Assistance Program in a socially just manner in the future.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Anderson in Islamy (2006) defines public policy as "a purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors in dealing with a problem or matter of concern", which means that an action or deliberate action followed by an actor or a series of actors in dealing with a problem or matter of concern. Nugroho D. (2003) defines public policy as a rule that regulates communal life that must be obeyed and is binding on all its citizens, where every violation committed will be given a sanction according to the weight of the violation in front of the community by the institution tasked with imposing sanctions.

In Appendix 1 of the Regulation of the Minister of State Apparatus Empowerment Number PER/04/M.PAN/4/2007 concerning General Guidelines for Formulation, Implementation, Performance Evaluation and Revision of Public Policy in the Central and Regional Government Institutions, stated that public policy is a decision made by the government or government institutions to address certain problems, to carry out certain activities or to achieve certain goals related to the interests and benefits of many people. Public policy has two forms: regulations that are codified formally and legally and public officials' statements.

Dunn in Tangkilisan & Nogi (2003) stated that the stages of public policy formulation begin with scheduling policies based on public problems to be solved. Policy formulation is carried out as a mechanism to solve the problem. After that, policy adoption is carried out by determining the policies to be implemented. The executing units carry out

policy implementation to realize the program, and finally a policy evaluation is carried out to assess the suitability of policy implementation.

There are various models for implementing public policy, one of which is the model proposed by George C. Edward III (1980:9-11), which states that implementing a program or policy is influenced by four variables: communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic structure. The following is a public policy implementation model diagram according to George C. Edward III.

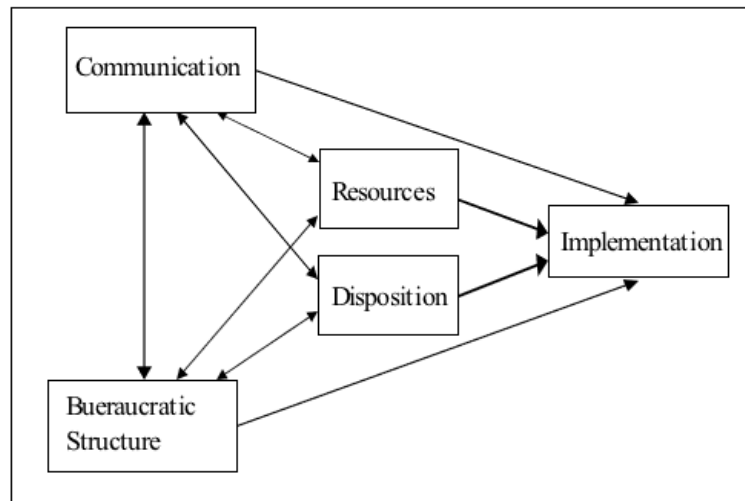


Figure 1. Edward III Public Policy Implementation Model

Source: Edward III (1980:148)

Coronavirus is categorized as a very dangerous disease that can infect from human to humans and animals. This disease spreads to everyone through breathing, coughing droplets, and sneezing (Sanjaya, 2020:279). Covid-19 has caused widespread and massive health impacts in the social and economic fields. The Government said that the possibility of workers being affected by Covid-19 was that three million employees were laid off.

Social Assistance Program emerged as one of the Government's ways to solve the problem of poverty. Assistance can be in cash or non-cash, given directly to the recipient. The Asian Development Bank in Supriyanto (2014:9) defines social assistance as a program designed to help the most vulnerable individuals, households, and communities meet and improve their standard of living. In Minister of Social Affairs Regulation (Permensos) Number 1 of 2019, social assistance is defined as assistance in the form of money, goods, or services to a person, family, group, or community that is poor, underprivileged, and vulnerable to social risks.

In its implementation, social assistance in Indonesia is divided into two types, namely cash and non-cash social assistance. Cash social assistance is assistance given to recipients in the form of money with a certain nominal/amount. Non-cash social assistance is assistance given non-cash through a certain mechanism. The various forms of social assistance are adjusted to a certain focus and aspect.

Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs Number 54/HUK/2020 concerning the Implementation of Basic Food Social Assistance and Cash Social Assistance in Handling the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) explains in the Fifth Dictum that Cash Social Assistance is implemented outside the area as referred to in the Fourth Dictum. The Sixth Dictum explains that the technical instructions for implementing Basic Food Social Assistance and Cash Social Assistance are determined by the Director General of Social Protection and Security and the Director General of Handling the Poor.

Decree of the Director General for Handling the Poor Number 18/6/SK/HK.02.02/4/2020 concerning Technical Instructions for the Distribution of Cash Social Assistance in Handling the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), in CHAPTER II concerning the Implementation of Cash Social Assistance explains: (1) The amount of Cash Social Assistance is IDR. 600,000.00 (six hundred thousand rupiah) per family per month, (2) Distribution of Cash Social Assistance is carried out by disbursing Cash Social Assistance funds through direct payments (LS) from the State Treasury to the accounts of Banks and/or Distributing Posts, (3) Disbursement of Cash Social Assistance funds made through direct payments (LS) from the State Treasury to Distributing Bank accounts is carried out by means of transfers from Distributing Bank accounts to the accounts of Cash Social Assistance Beneficiary Families, (4) Disbursement of Cash Social Assistance funds made through direct payments (LS) from the State Treasury to

Distributing Post accounts is carried out by means of giving cash from Distributing Post accounts to Cash Social Assistance Beneficiary Families by Distributing Post officers, (5) In the distribution of Cash Social Assistance to Cash Social Assistance Beneficiary Families carried out by Distributing Banks/Posts, it can be assisted by the Provincial Government and/or City/District Governments by paying attention to health protocols.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

3.1 Research Design

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method. According to Nazir (1998: 63), descriptive-qualitative research is a type of research that examines the status, group of people or objects, conditions, systems of thought, or a class of events in the present, with the aim that descriptive research is to create a description, factual and accurate picture of the facts, characteristics, and relationships between the phenomena being investigated.

3.2 Research Location

A research location is a place or area where research is conducted to collect data and information based on the research objectives. This research is located in the Selangkau Village Government, Kaliurang District, East Kutai Regency, East Kalimantan Province.

3.3 Research Informants

Informants in this study were selected based on sampling techniques purposive. According to the informant selection technique used in this study is purposive sampling. According to Sugiyono (2012: 219), purposive sampling is a sample determination technique that requires certain considerations. The informants in this study were the Selangkau Village Apparatus and the beneficiary community.

3.4 Data Sources

This study's primary data sources are obtained from informants through interviews and observations. Furthermore, secondary data is obtained from books, journals, and relevant local government documents.

3.5 Data Collection and Data Analysis Techniques

The data collection technique used in this study is an interview, which involves asking several in-depth oral questions to the informants, who have been determined using an interview guide instrument. The interview process also includes direct observation of the object and documentation of various relevant government documents.

The data analysis technique uses the analysis model from Miles, Huberman & Saldana (2014: 10-19) with stages in the form of data condensation *to* select and simplify data from field notes or transcripts. It was then continued with data display in brief descriptions, tables, or charts. Furthermore, the final stage is drawing conclusions or verification to answer the previously determined problem formulation.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Research Results

Selangkau Village is one of the areas in Kaliurang District, East Kutai Regency, East Kalimantan Province. Selangkau Village has an area of ± 8,909 Ha and is directly adjacent to Bukit Makmur Village, Bukit Harapan Village, Kaliurang Village, Sekerat Village, and the Makassar Strait. Selangkau Village has a tropical rainforest climate with an average temperature of 260 C °. The average annual rainfall in this area is 1,546 mm, with two dry months, namely in July and August. The air feels hot for sea and coastal areas because sea breezes from the Makassar Strait influence it, while the air is cooler in the plains/inland areas. Based on population data for Selangkau Village in 2023 as of Quarter I, the population of Selangkau Village was 1,375 people.

The results of the research that has been conducted can be described as follows: Implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 54 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Basic Food Social Assistance and Cash Social Assistance in Handling the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19). The results of interviews with informants will be divided into four research variables: communication, resources, commitment, and coordination.

The communication process needs to be delivered evenly and clearly to the target recipients of the information. The researcher asked the informant about the delivery of information regarding implementing the Social Assistance

Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village and whether it had been distributed evenly to target groups to reach remote villages.

Regarding this question, the results of an interview with the village head explained that "All COVID-19 assistance in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 54 of 2020 has been distributed properly. If some have not been reached, this is due to difficult access" (Interview, February 6, 2024). Meanwhile, the Village Secretary stated that: "The Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 54 of 2020 has been distributed, but it has not been distributed evenly because there are locations that cannot be reached" (Interview, February 12, 2024). The Head of Community Welfare Affairs (Kaur Kesra) of the Village and members of the Village Consultative Body (BPD Desa) also conveyed the same thing as the statement of the Village Head and Village Secretary that the Social Assistance Program had been communicated well. However, not all targets understood the information conveyed.

In addition to interviews with village officials, interviews were also conducted with beneficiary communities. The interview results with the first beneficiary community are as follows: "The implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village has been distributed well" (Interview, February 26, 2024). A similar thing was conveyed by the second beneficiary community, which stated, "The Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village has been distributed evenly to the entire community" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

The communication process to convey information not only needs to be distributed evenly but also needs to be conveyed clearly so that the information is clear. The researcher asked the informant about the delivery of information regarding implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village and whether it had been communicated clearly so that the target group and related parties could understand it.

About this question, the results of an interview with the Village Head explained that: "For some residents of Selangkau Village, it has been communicated and discussed well, but there are still some who do not understand so that sometimes problems arise" (Interview, February 6, 2024). Meanwhile, the Village Secretary stated that: "Social assistance in the community has not been communicated clearly because some people understand about the assistance, some only receive it but do not know the assistance provided" (Interview, February 12, 2024).

The opinion expressed by the Village Head and Village Secretary was strengthened by the statement of the Village Head of Community Welfare Affairs (Kaur Kesra) and the following information was obtained: "The Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 54 of 2020 has been communicated, but not all target groups understand the information conveyed" (Interview, February 20, 2024). In addition, members of the Village BPD conveyed the following similar things: "Social Assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs Number 54 of 2020 has been communicated, but not all target groups understand it well. Moreover, most of them already understand it" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

In addition to conducting interviews with village officials, interviews were also conducted with beneficiary communities. The interview results with the first beneficiary community are as follows: "The implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village has been conveyed clearly" (Interview, February 26, 2024). A similar thing was conveyed by the second beneficiary community, who stated: "The Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village has been conveyed clearly so that I can understand" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

During the implementation process of a policy, adequate resources are certainly needed to support the success of the implementation, which can be in the form of adequate and competent staff resources, complete and relevant information resources, and adequate and quality infrastructure resources. The researcher asked the informants implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village whether they already had adequate and competent staff resources.

About the question, the results of an interview with the Village Head stated that: "The implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs Number 54 of 2020 already has adequate and competent staff resources" (Interview, February 6, 2024). The Village Secretary made a similar statement: "The implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs Number 54 of 2020

already has adequate staff resources" (Interview, February 12, 2024). The Head of Community Welfare Affairs (Kaur Kesra) of the Village and members of the Village BPD also conveyed the same thing as the statement of the Village Head and Village Secretary that adequate and competent staff resources have supported the implementation of the Social Assistance Program.

In addition to conducting interviews with village officials, interviews were also conducted with beneficiary communities. The interview results with the first beneficiary community are as follows: "The Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village already has quite competent human resources" (Interview, February 26, 2024). The second beneficiary community conveyed a similar thing: "The Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village already has competent and adequate staff resources" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

The policy implementation process also requires information resources. The researcher asked informants implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village whether they already had complete and relevant information resources (such as operational and technical guidelines).

About the question, the results of an interview with the Village Head stated that: "The implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs Number 54 of 2020 already has complete and appropriate information resources" (Interview, February 6, 2024). The Village Secretary made a similar statement: "The Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs Number 54 of 2020 already has complete technical guidelines and technical instructions" (Interview, February 12, 2024). The Head of Community Welfare Affairs (Kaur Kesra) of the Village and members of the Village BPD also conveyed the same thing as the statement of the Village Head and Village Secretary that there is already information in the form of complete and adequate technical guidelines and technical instructions.

In addition to conducting interviews with village officials, interviews were also conducted with beneficiary communities. The interview results with the first beneficiary community are as follows: "The implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village already has complete and clear regulations" (Interview, February 26, 2024). A similar thing was conveyed by the second beneficiary community, who stated that: "The Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village already has clear provisions" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

The policy implementation process requires more than adequate human resources and information it also requires facility resources. The researcher asked informants in implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village whether they already had adequate and quality facility resources or infrastructure.

About the question, the results of an interview with the Village Head stated that: "The implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs Number 54 of 2020 already has resource facilities and infrastructure, but it is not yet adequate" (Interview, February 6, 2024). The Village Secretary made a similar statement: "The implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs Number 54 of 2020 already has resource facilities or facilities, but they are not adequate" (Interview, February 12, 2024). The Head of Community Welfare Affairs (Kaur Kesra) of the Village and members of the Village BPD also conveyed the same thing as the statement of the Village Head and Village Secretary that there are already facilities and infrastructure, but they are inadequate.

In addition to conducting interviews with village officials, interviews were also conducted with beneficiary communities. The interview results with the first beneficiary community are as follows: "The Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village already has facility resources, but they are inadequate" (Interview, February 26, 2024). A similar thing was conveyed by the second beneficiary community, who stated, "The Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in our village already has facilities and infrastructure, but they are not adequate" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

During the implementation of a policy, staff with high commitment are certainly needed while carrying out their duties, which can be triggered by appointing positions or providing incentives. The researcher asked the informants, who were implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village, whether selective staff recruitment had been carried out so they were highly committed to their work.

About this question, the results of an interview with the Village Head explained that: "The availability of competent human resources in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in our village is rather difficult, so only commitment is the basis for appointing staff" (Interview, February 6, 2024). Meanwhile, the Village Secretary stated that: "The implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs Number 54 of 2020 already has a high commitment to work" (Interview, February 12, 2024).

The opinion expressed by the Village Head and Village Secretary was strengthened by the statement of the Village Head of Community Welfare Affairs (Kaur Kesra), and the following information was obtained: "The implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village has been carried out by selectively appointing staff so that they have a high commitment to their work" (Interview, February 20, 2024). In addition, members of the Village BPD conveyed the following similar things: "The Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs has had a high commitment to work" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

In addition to conducting interviews with village officials, interviews were also conducted with beneficiary communities. The results of the interview with the first beneficiary community are as follows: "The implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village seems to have a serious commitment to their work" (Interview, February 26, 2024). A similar thing was conveyed by the second beneficiary community, which stated, "The Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village already has a fairly high commitment to their respective jobs" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

In addition to being triggered by the appointment of staff, increasing the staff's commitment can be done through the provision of several incentives. The researcher asked the informant about implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village and whether proper incentives had been given to staff so they would be highly committed to their work.

About this question, the results of an interview with the Village Head explained that: "Staff allowances for the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village are by the salary standards for village officials" (Interview, February 6, 2024). Meanwhile, the Village Secretary stated: "The implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs has provided appropriate incentives to staff so that they have a high commitment to their work" (Interview, February 12, 2024).

The opinion expressed by the Village Head and Village Secretary was strengthened by the statement of the Village Head of Community Welfare Affairs (Kaur Kesra), and the following information was obtained: "The Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs Number 54 of 2020 has provided incentives to staff so that they have a high commitment" (Interview, February 20, 2024). In addition, members of the Village BPD conveyed the following: "The implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs Number 54 of 2020 has provided appropriate incentives to staff" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

In addition to conducting interviews with village officials, interviews were also conducted with beneficiary communities. The results of the interview with the first beneficiary community are as follows: "In the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village, the staff seems to have been given proper incentives, so they have a high commitment" (Interview, February 26, 2024). A similar thing was conveyed by the second beneficiary community who stated: "I think the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village has given proper incentives to the staff so that they can commit to their work" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

While implementing a policy, it is necessary to distribute responsibility evenly and coordinate between staff. The researcher asked the informant in implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village whether the distribution/granting of responsibility to staff in work units had been carried out appropriately and *legally*.

About the question, the results of an interview with the Village Head explained that: "All staff in the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village have been given responsibilities according to their abilities and have been approved based on a Decree or SK" (Interview, February 6, 2024). The Village Secretary made a similar statement: "In the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in

Selangkau Village, a decree has been issued, and responsibilities have been given to all staff in the work units appropriately" (Interview, February 12, 2024).

The opinion expressed by the Village Head and Village Secretary was strengthened by the statement of the Village Head of Community Welfare Affairs (Kaur Kesra), and the following information was obtained: "In the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village, all staff have been given responsibilities according to their respective duties and functions according to the Decree" (Interview, February 20, 2024). In addition, members of the Village BPD conveyed the following similar thing: "In the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village, staff have been given responsibilities according to their respective duties and functions according to the Decree" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

In addition to conducting interviews with village officials, interviews were also conducted with beneficiary communities. The results of the interview with the first beneficiary community are as follows: "Of course, in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village, the staff have been given their respective tasks and responsibilities" (Interview, February 26, 2024). A similar thing was conveyed by the second beneficiary community, who stated that: "In the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village, of course, each staff has been given appropriate responsibilities" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

In addition to distributing responsibilities evenly, coordination between staff is also needed. The researcher asked the informant about the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village and whether there was intensive coordination between work units.

About the question, the results of an interview with the Village Head explained that: "In the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs Number 54 of 2020, regular coordination has been carried out" (Interview, February 6, 2024). The Village Secretary made a similar statement: "In the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs in 2020, there has been coordination carried out in stages" (Interview, February 12, 2024). The Head of Community Welfare Affairs (Kaur Kesra) of the Village and members of the Village BPD also conveyed the same thing as the statement of the Village Head and Village Secretary that coordination had been carried out periodically.

In addition to conducting interviews with village officials, interviews were also conducted with beneficiary communities. The interview results with the first beneficiary community are as follows: "In the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village, it seems that regular coordination activities have been carried out" (Interview, February 26, 2024). A similar thing was conveyed by the second beneficiary community, who stated that: "Regular coordination in the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village seems to have been carried out" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

There are supporting and inhibiting factors in the implementation process of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 54 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Basic Food Social Assistance and Cash Social Assistance in Handling the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19). Both factors come from within (internal) and outside (external).

The researcher asked the informants what the internal supporting factors (from within) were in implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village. In relation to this question, the results of an interview with the Village Head explained that: "The internal supporting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village are, first, complete population data sources; second, the existence of technical instructions, operational guidelines, and rules for the use of funds; and third, the existence of qualified staff" (Interview, February 6, 2024).

The Village Secretary made a similar statement: "Internal supporting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village include, first, having complete data; second, having technical instructions or rules regarding the use of funds; and third, having staff who are responsible for their respective tasks" (Interview, February 12, 2024). The Head of Community Welfare Affairs (Kaur Kesra) of the Village and members of the Village BPD also conveyed the same thing as the statements of the Village Head and

Village Secretary regarding internal supporting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village.

In addition to conducting interviews with village officials, interviews were also conducted with beneficiary communities. The results of the interview with the first beneficiary community are as follows: "In the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village, the internal supporting factors include, first, having rules on the use of funds; and second, having responsible staff" (Interview, February 26, 2024). A similar thing was conveyed by the second beneficiary community who stated that: "Internal factors that support the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village include having clear rules and having active and responsible staff" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

Based on the results of interviews with previous informants, it can be seen that the internal supporting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village consist of complete population data sources, technical guidelines, operational guidelines, and rules for the use of funds, as well as the presence of qualified, active, and responsible staff for their duties.

In addition to asking about internal supporting factors, researchers also asked informants what external supporting factors (from outside) were in implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village. About this question, the results of an interview with the Village Head explained that: "External supporting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village are first, the existence of government programs; second, the existence of donors or sources of funds; and third, the existence of government attention" (Interview, February 6, 2024).

A similar statement was made by the Village Secretary: "Externally, the supporting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village are, first, the existence of programs from the government; second, the existence of donors or sources of funds; and third, the existence of companies or CSR-Comdev" (Interview, February 12, 2024). The Head of Community Welfare Affairs (Kaur Kesra) of the Village and members of the Village BPD also conveyed the same thing as the statements of the Village Head and Village Secretary regarding external supporting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village.

In addition to conducting interviews with village officials, interviews were also conducted with beneficiary communities. The interview results with the first beneficiary community are as follows: "External supporting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village are the existence of programs from the government" (Interview, February 26, 2024). A similar thing was conveyed by the second beneficiary community, who stated that: "External supporters in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village are the existence of sufficient attention from the government" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

Based on the results of interviews with previous informants, it can be seen that external supporting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village consist of government programs, donors or sources of funds, attention from the Government, and Corporate Social Responsibility - Community Development or CSR-Comdev.

The researcher asked the informants what the internal inhibiting factors (from within) were in implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village. About this question, the results of an interview with the Village Head explained that: "The internal inhibiting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village are first, lack of communication between staff; and second, lack of supervision from above" (Interview, February 6, 2024).

The Village Secretary made a similar statement: "Internal factors that inhibit the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village are, first, lack of communication between staff; and second, lack of supervision from the Village Head" (Interview, February 12, 2024). The Head of Community Welfare Affairs (Kaur Kesra) of the Village and members of the Village BPD also conveyed the same thing as the statements of the Village Head and Village Secretary regarding internal inhibiting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village.

In addition to conducting interviews with village officials, interviews were also conducted with beneficiary communities. The interview results with the first beneficiary community are as follows: "The internal inhibiting factor in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village is the

lack of communication between staff" (Interview, February 26, 2024). A similar thing was conveyed by the second beneficiary community, who stated that: "The internal inhibitor in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village is the lack of supervision" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

Based on the results of interviews with informants, it can be seen that internal inhibiting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village occurred due to a lack of communication between staff and a lack of supervision from superiors, in this case, the Village Head.

In addition to asking about internal inhibiting factors, the researcher also asked informants what external inhibiting factors (from outside) were in implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village. About this question, the results of an interview with the Village Head explained that: "Externally, the inhibiting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village include difficult access, lack of communication to targets, and data that sometimes does not match what was submitted" (Interview, February 6, 2024).

The Village Secretary made a similar statement: "Meanwhile, external inhibiting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village include inaccessible access, and data submitted from the village to the Social Service does not match the data set by the service" (Interview, February 12, 2024). The Head of Community Welfare Affairs (Kaur Kesra) of the Village and members of the Village BPD also conveyed the same thing as the statements of the Village Head and Village Secretary regarding external inhibiting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village.

In addition to conducting interviews with village officials, interviews were also conducted with beneficiary communities. The interview results with the first beneficiary community are as follows: "Among the external inhibiting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village is difficult to access" (Interview, February 26, 2024). A similar thing was conveyed by the second beneficiary community, who stated that: "The external inhibiting factor in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village is difficult to access" (Interview, February 26, 2024).

Based on the results of interviews with previous informants, it can be seen that external inhibiting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village consist of difficult access, lack of communication to targets, and data submitted from the village sometimes does not match the data set by the Social Service.

4.2 Analysis of Research Results and Discussion

In analyzing the results of research on the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village, it is based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 54 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Basic Food Social Assistance and Cash Social Assistance in Handling the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19), seen from the variables of communication, resources, commitment, and coordination.

In the communication variable, distribution and clarity are the indicators used in implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village. The study's results on the distribution indicator show that information has been distributed but only evenly distributed to some target groups due to the difficulty of access to all remote villages. The study's results on the clarity indicator show that it has been communicated, but not all target groups and related parties can understand it clearly.

In the resource variable, the indicators used in implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village are staff, information, and facility resources. The study results on the staff resource indicator show it already has adequate and competent staff resources. The study results on the information resource indicator show they already have complete and relevant information resources, such as operational guidelines and technical instructions. The study results on the facility resource indicator show they do not yet have adequate and quality facility resources.

In the commitment variable, the indicators used in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village are staff recruitment and incentives. The study's results on the staff recruitment indicator show that selective staff recruitment has been carried out so that they are highly committed to

their work. The study's results on the incentive provision indicator show that Selangkau has provided proper incentives to staff so that they have a high commitment to their work.

In the bureaucratic structure variable, the indicators used to implement the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village are the distribution of responsibility and coordination between work units. The study's results on the indicators of the distribution of responsibility in work units show that each staff member has been given responsibility based on the Decree (SK) appropriately and legally (legitimately) according to their respective duties and functions. The study's results on the coordination indicators between work units show that There has been regular coordination between work units.

Analysis of the research results regarding supporting and inhibiting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village based on the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 54 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Basic Food Social Assistance and Cash Social Assistance in Handling the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) can be seen from the supporting factor variables (internal-external) and inhibiting factor indicators (internal-external).

In the supporting factor variable, the indicators used to implement the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village are internal and external factors. The study's results on the internal supporting factor indicator show that the internal supporting factors consist of complete population data sources, technical instructions, operational guidelines, and rules for using funds, as well as having staff responsible for their respective tasks. The study's results on the external supporting factor indicator show that the external supporting factors consist of the Government's Social Assistance Program, the existence of donors or sources of funds, the existence of government attention, and the existence of companies or CSR-Comdev.

In the inhibiting factor variable, the indicators used to implement the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village are internal and external factors. The study's results on the internal inhibiting factor indicator show that internal inhibiting factors consist of a lack of communication between staff and a lack of supervision from superiors. The study's results on the external inhibiting factor indicator show that external inhibiting factors consist of difficult access, lack of communication to targets, and data submitted from the village to the Social Service does not match the data set.

The following will discuss the research results on implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village. Communication in this study is interpreted as a human effort to convey thoughts and feelings to others. In terms of communication variables, the results of this study reveal that information regarding the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village has been distributed but has not been evenly distributed to all target groups due to the difficulty of access to reach all remote villages, and the implementation of the program has also been communicated but not all target groups and related parties can understand it clearly.

The study results are based on the theory of public policy implementation from Edward III (1980:10), which states that communication must be transmitted to the right personnel and must be clear, accurate, and consistent. Suppose the decision maker *hopes* that the implementation of the policy is what he wants. In that case, he must provide information accurately so that it can avoid discretion on the implementers when translating general policies into specific actions. This discretion is optional if there are clear and specific rules about what needs to be done. However, flexible rules can also hinder implementation because they will make it easier for implementers to adapt. In this case, a policy transmitted to the implementing agents is needed and is appropriate, clear, and consistent but does not hinder adaptation from the implementing agents.

Edward III in Widodo (2010:97) explains that policy communication has several dimensions; the first dimension is the transmission *or* delivery of information to implementers, target groups, and other parties. The second dimension is clarity *or* clear transmission of information so that public policy goals, objectives, and substance can be known. The third dimension is consistency *or* consistent delivery of information to clarify the targets, namely implementers and interested parties.

Resources are all sources that can be used to support the successful implementation of public policies. In terms of resource variables, the results of this study show that in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village, there were already adequate and competent staff resources, complete and relevant information resources in the form of operational guidelines and technical guidelines, but did not yet have adequate and quality facility resources.

The results of the study are by the view of Edward III's public policy implementation theory (1980:11), which states that regardless of how clear and consistent the implementation order is and regardless of how accurately the order is transmitted, if the implementer who implements the policy lacks resources, then the implementation will not be effective. Thus, the resource factor plays an important role in policy implementation.

Commitment here is interpreted in the same way as disposition. Disposition is the implementers' attitude, tendency, desire, or agreement to implement policies. Judging from the commitment variable, the results of this study show that in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangau Village, selective staff recruitment has been carried out, and appropriate incentives have been given to staff so that they have a high commitment to their work.

The study results are based on Edward III's public policy implementation theory (1980:89), which states that disposition is an important factor of the implementer, in addition to communication and resources. According to him, attitude or disposition is crucial because if the policy implementer has a disposition that is contrary to the direction of the policy, then this perspective can also result in a mismatch between the actual policy objectives and the policy implementation in the field.

Coordination is one of the most important elements in a bureaucratic structure. Here, the bureaucratic structure is defined as an order, division of labor, and hierarchy in an organization that is important for carrying out tasks more orderly. In terms of the coordination variable, the results of this study show that in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangau Village, each staff has been given responsibility based on a Decree (SK) appropriately and legitimately by their respective duties and there has been coordination between work units periodically.

The study's results are based on the views of Edward III's public policy implementation theory (1980:125-134). According to him, two sub-variables have a major influence on bureaucracy: Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and fragmentation. SOP is a response from the implementer to answer work demands due to a lack of time and resources and the desire for uniformity in complex organizational operations. On the one hand, this SOP provides a positive side, namely clarity for the public in the service standards they can expect, while on the other hand, mechanistic service standards can also make the public feel discriminated against.

Fragmentation is the distribution of responsibility for a policy across several organizational units. Edward III in Widodo (2010:106) stated that a fragmented bureaucratic structure (broken up or spread out) can increase communication failure because the opportunity for instructions to be distorted is very large. The more distorted the policy implementation, the more intensive coordination is needed.

Internal and external supporting factors are supporting factors in implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangau Village. Internal supporting factors include the existence of complete population data sources, technical instructions, operational guidelines, and rules for the use of funds, and having staff responsible for their respective tasks. External supporting factors include the existence of the Government's Social Assistance Program, the existence of donors or sources of funds, government attention, and the existence of companies or CSR-Comdev.

The results of this study are by the views of Edward III's public policy implementation theory in Sadhana (2011:198-2006) that four factors interact with each other and greatly determine the success of public policy implementation, namely communication factors, resource factors, disposition or attitude factors, and organizational structure factors.

Communication factors are important in transmitting policies appropriately, clearly, accurately, and consistently. Resource factors play an important role in carrying out work effectively. Disposition or attitude factors play an important role in determining attitudes when having the freedom to implement policies. Organizational structure factors also play an important role in increasing the effectiveness of existing bureaucratic structures during policy implementation.

Inhibiting factors in implementing the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangau Village consist of internal and external inhibiting factors. Internal inhibiting factors include a lack of communication between staff and a lack of supervision from superiors. External inhibiting factors include difficulty accessing the data, a lack of communication with targets, and data submitted from the village to the Social Service that does not match the data set.

The results of this study are by the views of Edward III's public policy implementation theory in Sadhana (2011:209-2011), which states the causes of distortion in communication, in the form of errors in information transmission, unclear policies, the number of people involved and the many layers of bureaucracy in communicating policies, the use of tools in communicating indirectly with implementers, and inconsistencies and ambiguities caused by conflicts of interest.

Based on the discussion of the research results as stated above, the results of this research support the theory of public policy implementation developed by Edward III (1980:9-11), which states that the implementation of a program or policy is influenced by four variables, namely communication, resources, disposition, and bureaucratic structure.

5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the research results that have been described previously, it can be concluded that The Social Assistance Program during the Covid-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village, Kaliorang District, East Kutai Regency, reviewed from the variables of communication, resources, commitment, and coordination, has been successfully implemented by the Decree of the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 54 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Basic Food Social Assistance and Cash Social Assistance in Handling the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Supporting factors in the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village, Kaliorang District, East Kutai Regency, consist of internal and external factors. Internal supporting factors consist of complete population data sources, technical instructions, operational guidelines, and rules for using funds, as well as having staff responsible for their duties. External supporting factors consist of the Government's Social Assistance Program, the existence of donors or sources of funds, the existence of government attention, and the existence of companies or CSR-Comdev.

Internal and external factors are inhibiting the implementation of the Social Assistance Program during the COVID-19 pandemic in Selangkau Village, Kaliorang District, East Kutai Regency. Internal inhibiting factors consist of a lack of communication between staff and a lack of supervision from authorized officials or institutions. External inhibiting factors consist of difficult access, lack of communication with the target, and data submitted from the village to the Social Service not matching the data set.

Based on the conclusions above, there are several recommendations suggested to related parties in implementing the social assistance program in Selangkau Village, Kaliorang District, East Kutai Regency, including improving communication between staff through intensifying coordination meeting activities and providing adequate communication equipment, improving supervision through optimizing the role of the Village Representative Body (BPD), improving access to facilitate communication and distribution through improving the quality of internet networks and highway infrastructure in remote areas, as well as strict monitoring of beneficiary data submitted by the village to the Social Service by authorized officials or agencies so that there are no changes to the data by irresponsible parties.

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