

# The Families' Welfare of the Street Vendors Affected by COVID-19 in Johar Baru District, Central Jakarta, Indonesia

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**ABSTRACT:** This article describes the families' welfare of street vendors during the COVID-19 pandemic and the differences experienced by street vendors from before the COVID-19 pandemic, during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the recovery period. This research is expected to provide an overview to the government regarding society during a pandemic provide input and reference in making policies and programs for the community to increase development. This study uses a qualitative approach with in-depth interview techniques and observation. The results of this study illustrate the welfare of that street vendors' families is disrupted, especially in the economic, social and psychological aspects. These aspects are interrelated, triggered by regulations prohibiting street vendors from trade. There are restrictions on trading time, and an inability to socialize appropriately, so sadness and disappointment come when they cannot meet their families need. The differences in welfare are very clear. Before the pandemic, people had a certain income. During the pandemic, street vendors had uncertain income, and there was a time they had no income at all. During the transition period, people began to wake up, and the situation gradually improved, but their economic situation had not recovered to how it was before the COVID-19 pandemic.

**KEYWORDS** -family welfare, street vendor, COVID-19.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The pandemic that occurred in 2020 was felt by the world, caused by an outbreak of a the coronavirus and causing COVID-19 disease. As a result of this pandemic, community activities have been restricted to break the chain of transmission of COVID-19. Restrictions on community activities are implemented throughout the country, and in Indonesia. The government, which made the policy as an effort to deal with the COVID-19 problem, called for the implementation of Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) to the Implementation of Restrictions on Community Activities (PPKM) for areas that have a significant and fast increase in the number of cases and deaths from the disease COVID-19 and has links epidemiological studies with similar events in the region. UU No. 6 of 2018 The implementation of this PSBB includes the execution of educational, work, worship, social and cultural activities, public facilities, difficulties in modes of transportation and facilitating all activities gathering people and crowds.



*Sources: Data update August 2022 Covid19.go.id*

Looking at the comparison of data from year to year, it can be concluded that cases in DKI Jakarta are experiencing fluctuating cases, in 2021, they reached 6000 cases and then decreased, but in 2022 in January cases rose again to more than 6000 cases. Meanwhile, in July the cases returned to a much slower pace. From this situation and phenomenon, it is interesting to see the welfare of the families of street vendors in DKI Jakarta, especially the Johar Baru sub-district. In 2022 where cases had increased dramatically at the beginning of the year, then cases had slumped at the end of the year. Even though the number of cases fluctuates very much, it is undeniable that the PPKM rules will continue to hold. Based on the opinion of Aulia Rahman et al. (2020) The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on poor and vulnerable families is reduced income and loss of jobs making it difficult to meet their daily needs. This will affect the wheels of the economy, especially for business and economic actors in DKI Jakarta, so people affected by COVID-19 have also experienced life changes in due to limitations.

Explanations regarding family well-being generally have two dimensions, material and spiritual. Family well-being is also divided into economic welfare (family well-being) as measured by the fulfillment of family inputs (for example measured by income, wages, assets and family expenses) and material well-being (family material well-being) as measured by various forms of goods and services accessed by the Sunarti family (2006:14). Supported by Puspitawati (2016; 11) which explains that family welfare is family output, both dimensions of physical well-being, social well-being, economic well-being, and psychological well-being spiritual (psychological-spiritual well-being). According to Midgley (1995; 15) as a way to determine human welfare can be seen based on the following:

“These three dimensions - the management of social problems, the meeting of needs and the enhancement of opportunities - combine in a complex way to comprise the basic requirements for attaining social well-being. When all three requirements are met in any particular community or society, it may be argued that the community or society enjoys a satisfactory level of welfare. When these requirements are not met, it may be claimed that the community or society has failed to attain a satisfactory level of welfare.”

According to the regulation of the Minister of Social Affairs No. 25 of 2017 concerning the Family Welfare Consultation Institution, Family Welfare is a condition regarding the fulfillment of the basic human needs of each family member materially, socially, mentally and spiritually so that they can live properly as human beings who are useful and with dignity.

Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs No. 41 of 2012 concerning Guidelines for the Arrangement and Empowerment of PKL defines street vendors as business actors who carry out a trading business using mobile or immovable business facilities, using city infrastructure, social facilities, public facilities, land and buildings belonging to the government and private temporary / non-permanent. Another to Evens and Korff (2002) street vendors are part of the urban informal sector which develops goods and service production activities outside government control and is not registered. According to this understanding, the activities of street vendors are generally far from the reach of the government. Further explanation, according to Nugroho (2003: 159) Street vendors or abbreviated as PKL is a term to refer to merchandise vendors who carry out commercial activities on the area belonging to the road that is designated for pedestrians. According to Permadi (2007; 11) street vendors can be differentiated based on the type of street vendor equipment, namely, carts, stalls, poles, slings, and bicycles.

According to Pisani (2020) The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed the world into crisis. As states and countries take shelter, shut down, and quarantine, the world is almost universally and simultaneously experiencing isolation, scarce resources, heightened uncertainty, anxiety, and fear. COVID - 19 exacerbated some of the most problematic aspects of systems, and the impact will reverberate long after the crisis. The pandemic has also brought creativity, resilience and innovation to the families involved in the system and the many working professionals. According to Aulia Rahman et al. (2020) the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on poor and vulnerable families is reduced income and job loss resulting in difficulties in meeting their daily needs. Due to the COVID-19 situation Midgley (1995) explained more deeply that distorted development is manifested not only in poverty, deprivation, low health status and inadequate housing but in excluding of sections of the population from full participation in development.

In previous research, many have discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (Pisani, Kristen, 2022; Swinnen, Johan, 2021; Feinberg, Mark E. et.al. 2021; Hulbert-Williams, Nicholas J, et al. 2021; Ciałżyńska, Magdalena, 2020; Çopur, Ebru Öztürk, 2021; Kehok 2020; Rosenberg, Joshua, 2020; Tsurugano, Shinobu, 2021), but no one has discussed family welfare during the pandemic Covid as will be discussed in this study, more researchers aim at the quality of life of adolescents, children's welfare, the impact of COVID-19 regarding family functioning, the resistance of patients with cancer has not found research that discusses family welfare, especially for street vendors, so it is interesting to know how the welfare of the families of street vendors during the COVID-19 pandemic and the differences in the pre-pandemic period, during the pandemic to this transitional period.

Johar Baru is a densely populated area that is always busy. Many street vendors sell around the Johar Baru sub-district, namely Jalan Johar Baru Utara I. Almost on every side of the road, you can find street vendors form food, drinks, goods/equipment, electronics, and clothes. It's not only residents around Johar Baru District who like to shop or go sightseeing, but people from other sub-districts also often come to Johar Baru District to walk or bring something from the street vendors. All of these things have changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These traders received the impact due to COVID-19, with regulations made to carry out PSBB to PPKM activities to reduce the transmission rate. When the PSBB was initially implemented and there was a Delta variant, the street vendors were not allowed to trade for 2 weeks, and an extension was made until a tentative and variable time. Starting from this, it is alleged that there has been a change in the quality of life experienced by the community. Family economic shocks are often heard due to the limitations they experience due to being affected by COVID-19. Difficulty in financing daily life greatly affect the welfare of the families of street vendors in the Johar Baru neighborhood. The aims of this study are to describe the welfare of the families of street vendors affected by COVID-19 in Johar Baru District, Central Jakarta during a pandemic and also Describes how the differences the families welfare conditions of of street vendors affected by COVID-19 in Johar Baru District, Central Jakarta during before the pandemic, during the COVID-19 pandemic, and during the recovery period.

## II. METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted based on existing cases and events people affected by COVID-19 have experienced, especially street vendors around Johar Baru District. This study uses a qualitative approach. According to Neuman (2006), the purpose of a qualitative approach is to obtain facts and data in the field which are studied through methods and theoretical thinking and are used to form new concepts. This type of research is descriptive research, which according to Neuman (2014: 40) descriptive research is research that explains why events occur and build, develop, expand, or test theories. This research will describe the welfare of families affected by COVID-19 so that they will have in-depth information when the research is conducted with a qualitative approach.

This study uses non-probability sampling informant selection techniques. Non-probability sampling is explained by Creswell (2018: 248), namely selecting samples based on convenience and ease. The selection of informants was also carried out by purposive sampling. The researchers determined that the informants in this study were people who traded on street vendors around Johar Baru District, and were breadwinners in families for both men and women. This case were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, people experience being unable to carry out or reduce business/trading activities.

Data collection in this study was carried out using in-depth interviews and observation techniques. In-depth interviews are the main technique in this research. According to (Moleong, 2005: 186), in-depth interviews are a process of digging up information in depth, openly, and freely with problems and research focus directed at research centers. This research was carried out by observing behavior or phenomena by providing distance and space for the object under study. According to Neuman (2006), field data is natural, remembered and recorded in the field. In carrying out data analysis, this research begins with reading and examining the available data from interviews by carrying out the stages according to Neuman (2006) Sort and classify, Open coding, Axial coding, Selective coding, Interpretation and elaboration.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section will discuss the findings regarding the welfare of the street vendor's families affected by COVID-19 in Johar Baru sub-district, Central Jakarta.

### 1. Welfare of Street Vendor's Families

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused restrictions, isolation and uncertainty leading to anxiety for people worldwide. Aulia Rahman et al. (2020) revealed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on poor and vulnerable families, namely reduced income and loss of jobs resulting in difficulties meeting their daily needs. It is explained that the COVID-19 pandemic will cause difficulties in meeting daily needs, which result from all existing regulations, especially in Indonesia, namely the Implementation of Restrictions on Community Activities (PPKM), people's lifestyles must change without prior preparation. Society seems forced to follow the rules made immediately during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### 3.1 Social aspect

According to Midgley (1995), "All humans, families, communities and societies have social needs that must be met if a person is to experience social satisfaction." However, in this condition, people are not allowed to carry out their activities as they should. Specifically discussing street vendors not allowed to sell, it finally requires them to stay at home. Activities only at home certainly have an effect, both on social relations with family and with the community. The relations with family get better, and they can spend more time with family members. On the other hand, people cannot leave their homes and socialize with their neighbors or work according to their status. The street vendors can't sell the stuff, the employee can't go to the office, and children can't go to school and play with their friends. The finding from the informant "didn't go anywhere, so we don't allow children to leave the house, so we don't go out. But I'm still all good neighbors." (DN, March 2023) The findings can illustrate an imbalance in social relations experienced by people affected by Covid, especially street

vendors. They should be able to go out and interact with the community and buyers of their wares, during a pandemic they could not do that.

### 3.2 Health

The study found that the condition of street vendors during the COVID-19 pandemic was that some people were sick and some people were healthy. However, for those suffering, the street vendor informants prefer not to have their health checked according to the test procedure for COVID-19, commonly known as a rapid or swab test. Refers to informant said "No, I'm not the one who doesn't run away, I'm just sure I don't have a disease like that, if we felt dizzy or cough It really has a taste, If we are treated, we will suspected by COVID. I mean, like dirty garbage collectors, garbage pickers, there's no sick at all" (LN, 2023). If they felt unhealthy, they choose to take medicine that they can easily get on the market or just comply with the health protocol, that is enough to handle the disease they are experiencing. This new and sudden situation as well as newly emerging diseases and how to manage them due to the COVID-19 virus, makes people feel unsafe, uncomfortable, and distorted. The community, especially street vendors, experiences this. Informants of street vendors from the results of the study's result found a rejection of what they felt about their health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 3.3 Psychological aspect

During the Covid pandemic, sadness and disappointment were felt because of changes in their lives, especially in the economy. Their expressions of sadness and disappointment were illustrated when there were regulations for PSBB and then PPKM which resulted in street vendors being unable to sell and restrictions on opening hours when they were allowed to sell again. "Well, I'm a bit disappointed with this pandemic, while PSBB, we can't do anything even to trade, the stuff it's not good either." (DN, March 2023). Government regulations regarding PPKM which disruption to the economic sector cause grief and disappointment from street vendors. Uncertainty the condition with distortion, and the family needs that cannot afford properly by the street vendors make them feel such grief. Even though their mental health can still be maintained, their emotions bring that describe sadness and disappointment due to the existing pandemic situation

### 3.4 Economics

Due to the difficulties experienced from being unable to sell amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the limited time when permission was granted to trade again. The most challenging situation can be seen from the provided information that the street vendors had no income because they were not selling. When they were allowed to sell, there weren't many buyers, and with a short selling time and conditions that had not yet recovered, so not few buyers. According to Sunarti (2006:14) family welfare generally has two material and spiritual dimensions. Family well-being is also differentiated into economic well-being (family well-being) as measured by the fulfillment of family inputs (for example measured by income, wages, assets and family expenses) and material well-being (family material well-being) as measured by various forms of goods and services accessed by families. The street vendors should finally ut their needs or changes to another option with more cheapest price so that they could meet their needs without missing anything, street vendors were also found borrowing money to fulfill their needs. "finally I got loan, ifI didn't do that we don't eat, my wife and children need to eat, also pay for electricity. Yes, even though the loan is not very big, but you want it or not" (DN, March 2023). This is a way for street vendors to cover needs that cannot be eliminated. Assistance from the government, is one of the things that street vendors who were found to be informants hoped for, but, from the informants interviewed only one person received assistance to ease his burden during the pandemic. Street vendors hope to get this assistance to help meet their needs.

The welfare of the families of street vendors affected by COVID-19 has been disrupted. The disorder is seen mainly in economic, social, and psychological aspects. These aspects are interrelated, triggered by rules prohibiting street vendors from selling. There are restrictions on selling time, and they cannot socialize appropriately even though they get the benefits of being able to gather with their families but sadness and disappointment come when they cannot meet their needs and that of their families maximally.

2. Differences before the pandemic, during the COVID-19 pandemic and the transition period until now.

The study's results regarding the differences in the welfare conditions of the street vendor families. This can be seen from the social changes experienced by the street vendor families. Based on Sumardjan's theory (1962), social change is a culture that occurs due to changes in social structure and function. So social change will automatically affect the culture of the community itself because it is related to people's habits. This study findings are changes in society's social functions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though these changes are temporary and occur very quickly, thus making the community experience uncertainty. Discussed more deeply one by one, if viewed from the welfare aspect, these differences are very clear in the social and economic aspects. In social aspect before the pandemic everyone can do anything as their own job, they can go out with friends, the street vendors can trade normally. When the pandemic situation no one can go out from their house, every activity was locked and shut down, That's what happened to the traders too "we don't do anything, just sleep and play with the kids... Everyone's off. The kids at home are just playing because the recite school was holidays, school holidays. Even though the recite school is near the house." (RH, March 2023). After all those pain in recovery situation people has come back to their activity, everyone can go outside and the vendors can trade again. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, people had a definite income because they could still trade according to their profession. Still, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, street vendors could not sell and had shorter selling hours. This causes street vendors to have uncertain income and there is even a time when they have no income because they are not allowed to leave the house for activities. Meanwhile, during the transitional period, the community began to revive, and the situation gradually improved, but their economic situation had not recovered to what it was before the

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Street vendors have received the impact of COVID-19, with regulations made to carry out PSBB to PPKM activities, street vendors are not allowed to sell at some time, after being allowed back, there is a shortened selling time. As a result of this incident, the results of research on the welfare of the street vendor families in the Johar Baru sub-district found that the welfare of the street vendor families in the Johar Baru sub-district was concluded to be disrupted. The disorder is seen mainly in economic, social and psychological aspects. Limited daily activities lead to disappointment, and sadness is also present when unable to fully meet their needs and their families.

Differences in welfare from before the pandemic, during the COVID-19 pandemic and the transition period until now. It can be seen from the social changes experienced by the street vendors' families, this is concluded because of changes and differences in situations or experiences experienced by street vendors in Johar Baru District. The difference is very clearly seen in the social and economic aspects. The situation before the COVID-19 pandemic, people had a definite income because they could still carry out their activities, but when there was a COVID-19 pandemic, street vendors could not trade and had shorter selling hours, so their income was uncertain and there was even a time when they did not have the same income. Once during the transitional period, people began to wake up, and the situation gradually improved, but their economic situation had not recovered to how it was before the COVID-19 pandemic.

If in the future we are back again with a situation that is experiencing uncertainty or a pandemic situation such as COVID-19, the government must be ready to provide social products that can accommodate all community needs, both from an economic, health, physical, psychological and spiritual perspective. Its needs when there is uncertainty however, the government must be present in the recovery period. In fact, in order to survive and improve conditions, support is needed, so for that, the presence of the government is needed to organize the community, especially street vendors, so that they can be accommodated in the micro and small business system. Further, it is suggested that Government and Non-Government organizations should train Street vendors on the on-line marketing. It is more appropriate marketing strategy during COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

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