

## MUHAMMADIYAH STRATEGIC STEPS IN OVERCOMING THE COVID PANDEMIC 19

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**Abstract** : The purpose of this study was to obtain information about Muhammadiyah's Strategic Steps in Overcoming the Covid Pandemic 19. This study used a literature study method with an inductive approach. Researchers deliberately chose various print and online media related to Muhammadiyah in dealing with Covid 19. The results of this study. *First*, Muhammadiyah provided assistance to overcome Covid 19 with 78.6 billion worth of money. *Second*, Muhammadiyah also provides assistance in the form of experts or medical personnel, covid equipment, volunteers, scholarships, Muhammadiyah hospitals are used as covid services. *Third*, autonomous assemblies and institutions and organizations are also involved in overcoming covid 19.

**Keywords** : Strategic, Muhammadiyah, and Pandemic covid 19

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### A. Preliminary

The 75th anniversary of Indonesia's independence today cannot be separated from the role of Muhammadiyah in the past. Even pre-independence, the role of religious leaders in Muhammadiyah became a trigger and trigger for independence fighters, Muhammadiyah figures emerged as teachers of the ideology of the Indonesian nation. The spirit and role of post-independence Muhammadiyah figures continued. Muhammadiyah is charismatic not only for the Muslim community but for non-Muslims as well. Messages, orders, and fatwas issued by Muhammadiyah very quickly spread from the central leadership to the branch level leaders throughout Indonesia.

With the support of advances in information technology, it is very easy to convey messages, orders, appeals, and even fatwas made by Muhammadiyah. Including submitting information transmission related to prevention in overcoming the Covid 19 pandemic. Since the beginning, Muhammadiyah was very serious in overcoming the Covid 19 pandemic, including Muhammadiyah forming a command center. The following was conveyed by the father of the chairman of the Muhammadiyah center, Haidar Nashir, that Muhammadiyah has invited the community to be active and care about becoming a fighter against the pandemic outbreak called Covid 19 (Butar-Butar, 2020). Not only leaving the task

to medical personnel to stem the coronavirus but all elements of society are also involved.

One of the studies conducted by Siti Khadijah N Aulia on the role of religious figures in breaking the Covid 19 pandemic chain in Indonesian online media (Siti Khodijah Nurul Aula, 2020). As explained above, there are many roles and functions of religious leaders in voicing the spirit of awakening against the Covid-19 pandemic. Religious leaders can act as intermediaries for messages from the government and health workers. Even though it is only a symbol, the actions of religious leaders in responding to the pandemic have been followed by many followers. Like when he postponed and reduced activities and worship outside the home and chose to stay home, this indirectly made his ummah follow the actions of their leaders. When religious leaders advise to read the practices of many people, especially students, the pesantren community always tries to maximize this spiritual worship. This then makes the government often make a charismatic religious figure as one of the figures conveying community service messages. As carried out by Ridwan Kamil as the Governor of West Java who invited Aa Gym to have a dialogue about Covid 19 in his province, these chats were broadcast through his Instagram channel.

Different things were concluded in the research of Imam Prawoto, Siti Ngainnur Rohmah, and Fitri Rachmiati Sunarya with the title Preventive Role of Leaders in Preventing the Spread of COVID-19; Strategy of Shaykh Al-Zaytun in Ma'had Al-Zaytun and Its Contribution to the Surrounding Community. This study concluded that the obedience of religious leaders in Ma'had al-Zaytun was able to provide prevention against the spread of covid-19 by implementing strict protocols by government recommendations (Imam Prawoto, Siti Ngainnur Rohmah, 2020). Another research that strengthens Imam Prawoto's research conclusions regarding the role of religion in preventing the spread of covid-19 was carried out by Tumpal Daniel with the title Strengthening the Tarbiyah Umat and Contribution of Islam to Overcome Covid 19. On this basis, this study aims to see the response of religious figures in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. 19 in Indonesia, by looking at the role of religious leaders in helping to break the chain of distribution and helping the affected (Tumpal Daniel, 2020).

The role of Muhammadiyah is not only with the charismatic figure but in making every decision or policy by deliberation and consensus to achieve benefit now and in the future. Muhammadiyah has an MTT (Tarjih and Tajdid Council) on 31-03-2020 issued a decision regarding worship guidance during the Covid 19 pandemic which contains nineteen decisions, among which decisions are about those exposed to Covid 19 who died. In the hadith narrated by Abu Hurairah, the Prophet Muhammad said that people who died in a martyr state were due to stomach ulcers, died in the water, died from collapsed buildings, and martyred people on the path of Allah SWT.

## **B. Strategic Steps Through Health**

Since its establishment, Muhammadiyah in 1912 has continued to be committed to helping weak and difficult communities. A. Ahmad Dahlan (Mulkhan, 2007) as a founding figure at the beginning saw the condition of the surrounding community experiencing concerns about poverty, ignorance, and colonialism by the Dutch. Ahmad Dahlan's charismatic attitude easily attracted the attention of the public, especially young people at that time.

Even though he is close to young people, he is still a figure who has a lifestyle, life orientation, and Islamic thought as an Islamic movement, Amar makeup Nahi Munkar. The Amar makeup Nahi Munkar Islamic movement is a reflection of Muhammadiyah's identity. Then Ahmad Dahlan and his students tried to help the community by establishing Langar Kidul as a place for learning, social activities, health, and so on.

In such a fast time, Muhammadiyah then formed the Ummah Kesengsaraan Assistance Council by establishing a hospital charity business. Since the hospital was established for the first time, Muhammadiyah has had hospitals from Sabang to Merauke. Until now, Muhammadiyah has 65 hospitals that have been used as a reference for handling covid 19. However, Muhammadiyah will continue to add hospitals that can be used as a reference for Covid 19.

Muhammadiyah and Aisyiyah were involved in helping handle the pandemic by recommending several hospitals belonging to Muhammadiyah and Aisyiyah to immediately treat Covid-19 patients. Starting with twenty units, it continues to increase to 35 units, now even 53 units. All the hospitals are located in the MPKU (Public Health Advisory Council) Muhammadiyah Central Executive. They are joined by other assemblies and institutions in a special task force, namely the Muhammadiyah Covid-19 Command Center (MCCC). Deputy Secretary of the MPKU Central Executive of Muhammadiyah, Ekorini Listiyowati said, at the beginning of the appointment of 20 RSMAs, not all of them actually stated that they were ready. This is because the conditions of RSMA throughout Indonesia have different capacities and facilities.

The public health supervisory board is also preparing for the hospital to have Covid 19 patients and train specifically. By practicing procedures for dealing with Covid 19 patients, simulating how to use and remove PPE, proof of bodies, and room decontamination techniques. Then train the medical personnel in throat swap sampling, this screening, and detection, spiritual mentoring, and stress management training. Anticipate, they perform thoracic radiological examinations as indicated, complete the test, and swab.

The hospital has also prepared a surge capacity plan by increasing the space capacity for Covid-19 services. Which, originally only had 1-2 isolation beds,

now it has increased. With the Muhammadiyah hospital, it is very helpful for the government in dealing with the Covid 19 virus.

### **C. Strategic Steps Through Education**

Apart from going through the Muhammadiyah hospital to handle covid 19, Muhammadiyah also intervened from charities in the education sector starting from Bustanul Atfhal Kindergarten to the college level. The government decided to take a quick step by issuing regulations, starting with regulations from the government followed by a circular from the Minister of Education and culture then followed up by Muhammadiyah as issuing edicts and regulations issued by the Higher Education Council and Dikdasmen PP Muhammadiyah.

Since the issuance of a decree from the ministry of education regarding the teaching and learning process from home using social media. Through the Primary and Secondary Education Council, they continue to school to carry out internet network learning from home as an effort to prevent Covid 19. Likewise, the Higher Education Council so that Muhammadiyah universities also carry out teaching and learning processes from home with an internet network.

Not only that, Muhammadiyah and Aisyiyah Universities contributed 78 billion in cash to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. Every university has policies that try to help those who have an impact on Covid, such as students. It should be noted that the University of Muhammadiyah Malang provides tuition financing for all active students by 1 million per student. Then with a discount of tuition funding is given to all students who are active in the even semester lectures in 2019/2020 and odd semester 2020/2021 with the money of 500 thousand per semester so that the total is 1 million.

Muhammadiyah and Aisyiyah Universities strongly support the learning from a home program using the internet then provide various relief and subsidies, including Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta Aisyiyah University, Ahmad Dahlan University, and Muhammadiyah Magelang University. Yogyakarta Muhammadiyah University provides a subsidy of 150 thousand every month from March-May 2020. Then Aisyiyah Yogyakarta University also subsidizes SPP cost cuts of 250 thousand for this odd semester. Then Ahmad Dahlan University provided a reduction in SPP of 200 thousand and the University of Muhammadiyah Magelang provided a subsidy of 150 thousand for cutting registration fees for the odd semester of the 2020/2021 academic year.

The Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatra provides internet package fees for students during the online learning process from home, free registration fees for new students provides PPE equipment to medical personnel, provides masks to the community, volunteers from medical personnel, and so on. Plt. The Mayor of Medan, H Akhyar Nasution asked the Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatra to carry out joint tasks in providing solutions to efforts to deal with the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic. The Medan City

Government cannot walk alone in dealing with the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic because the problem is too complex so it requires togetherness and involvement of all parties, including the Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatra, he said during a visit to the UMSU campus on Jalan Kapten Mukhtar Basri, Medan (22/6).

#### **D. Strategic Steps Through Mubaligh**

Muhammadiyah has various figures, including preacher figures as Muhammadiyah messengers to the community. During the Covid 19 pandemic, the task of preachers to convey messages to prevent the Covid 19 virus through the Friday pulpit, recitation pulpit, printed media, electric media, social media.

Muhammadiyah formed volunteer preachers without Covid 19 because all elements or elements in the Muhammadiyah organization are trying to help each other affected by the Covid 19 outbreak and remembering this outbreak has multi-sector impacts. Soon Muhammadiyah through the Central Leadership Tabligh Council formed RMTC-19 or Covid 19 Missionary Volunteers.

Missionary volunteers have a role to convey to all Muhammadiyah missionaries to try to avoid activities that gather large numbers of people. Why, it is necessary to do this to comply with health protocols, namely maintaining distance. Even when delivering the preaching material of the preachers not to meet face to face with the congregation but to use social media actively and creatively (Robie Fanreza, 2019).

Not only that, so that the preachers of Muhammadiyah in the tausiyah material provided should not give a sense of anxiety or fear, as well as not underestimate the current Covid 19 pandemic. Related to this, it requires a middle attitude / wasathiyah and wisdom from the preacher in preaching.

It seems that Muhammadiyah mubalighs when delivering dakwah or tausiyah material to congregations must pay attention to health protocols, then they should not fear or underestimate the Covid 19 pandemic which is currently still happening. Related to this, the preacher must have a middle attitude and need a wisdom attitude in conveying da'wah material (Zulkarnein Lubis, Robie Fanreza, 2020) (Robie Fanreza, 2017) (Juli Maini Sitepu, 2018).

Then the main duties of Muhammadiyah preachers are fatwas issued by Muhammadiyah and the Indonesian Ulama Council, as well as the attitude of a believer during Ramadan in a state of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the Muhammadiyah missionary must provide cool da'wah material, not to frighten the congregation, but also not to order desperate in the face of the covid pandemic 19.

Muhammadiyah preachers are in charge of transmitting information related to overcoming the covid 19 viruses. According to Siti Khadijah Nurul Aula, Information transmission plays an important role in overcoming the Covid 19 pandemic. This role is played by various parties, including religious leaders. Religious figures who have charismatic figures have special powers that can influence the actions of the people who become their communities. The message conveyed by religious leaders has a tendency to be followed, whether the substance of the message is good or bad.

Murali Muhammadiyah is close to recitation congregations both at the central and branch levels which are carried out routinely once a week. The recitation pulpit or the pulpit for Friday is the choice of place to convey the message of the Covid 19 pandemic. The preachers also have several social media accounts that can be used as a place to convey the same message. With Muhammadiyah publish, the government's task becomes easy and light as a verbal connector related to the Covid pandemic.

#### **E. Strategic Steps Through Autonomous Organizations**

Breaking the chain of spreading covid 19 must involve all levels of society. Among the community consists of a group of people or gathered in an organization. Muhammadiyah has an autonomous level organization consisting of Aisyiyah, Nasiatul Aisyiyah, Muhammadiyah Youth, Muhammadiyah Student Association, Muhammadiyah Student Association, Tapak Suci, and Hizbul Wathan Scouting.

Autonomous organizations are active in helping the government as partners to deliver messages related to the Covid 19 pandemic. This is evidenced by various social activities among the community to help impact the Covid pandemic. Aisyiyah, starting from the central leadership level up to the branch level, has made a massive contribution to the benefit of the affected communities. The leadership of the Aisyiyah Marindal Subdistrict of North Sumatra jointly collected donations or assistance from various elements of society to be given to people affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. By educating the public about the Covid pandemic, distributing masks, providing basic food packages, and supporting orphans, etc.

In addition to the aisyiyah mothers who are at the forefront in overcoming Covid 19. The Muhammadiyah Youth Center Leadership also instructed all cadres to play an active role in overcoming the Covid 19 pandemic. always trying to ease the burden on the community, and continue to cooperate with both the central government and the private sector, hopefully, this will benefit the community.

North Sumatra Muhammadiyah Youth Regional Leaders in various social activities to assist the government in overcoming the pandemic. The

Muhammadiyah Youth of Langkat Regency faced the Covid 19 pandemic, the Muhammadiyah Langkat Youth carried out the Al Maun Movement by giving one ton of rice to the poor, giving masks, giving hand-sanitizers, educating about Covid 19, distributing 450 boxes of rice which were distributed to the Muhammadiyah Youth Branch, namely Stabat, Secanggang, Padang Tualang, Tanjung Pura, Pangkalan Brandan, Besitang, Finished and Bahorok.

In an effort to overcome and prevent the spread of the Corona 19 Virus in Mandailing Natal Regency, the Muhammadiyah Regional Leaders of Mandailing Natal Regency assisted integrated data collection and investigation post officers at the Mandailing Natal - South Tapanuli border, to be precise in Sihepeng Village, Siabu District.

Chairman of the Medan City Muhammadiyah Youth Muhammad Irsyad, MA said that the Medan City Muhammadiyah Youth Regional Leaders had distributed and helped people affected by Covid with the Al-Maun movement phase 1 and 2 basic food assistance packages with 1.5 tons of rice and cooking oil, canned fish. and instant noodles.

Pemuda Muhammadiyah Asahan Regency provides a place with internet facilities to learn in the online learning process (in the network). Chairman of Muhammadiyah Youth Asahan Fachri Mizan Harsono while talking with the Waspada Daily, Friday (7/8), said that the provision of a place to study was because many students complained about the online student mode with the online system, because of internet quota constraints, and there were also students who did not have smartphones laptop.

## **F. Conclusion**

Muhammadiyah is the largest Islamic organization in the world that has strategic steps in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic. Muhammadiyah even conveyed to the community that it refuses to make peace and continues to strive against the spread of Covid 19, by using all the capabilities and strengths possessed by Muhammadiyah. Through business charities such as hospitals, educational institutions, assemblies and autonomous institutions, and organizations join hands to fight the spread of covid 19.

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