

# Participation and Active Contribution of Private Universities in the Prevention of the Covid-19 Pandemic Transmission

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## Participation and Active Contribution of Private Universities in the Prevention of the Covid-19 Pandemic Transmission

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### ABSTRACT

This research will reveal how the form of active participation and the real contribution of higher education institutions in preventing transmission of the Covid-19 pandemic, this problem is interesting to study considering that universities are not only limited to aspects related to education and teaching but also help the government deal with problems that hit the nation. To find data related to the research focus, this study used qualitative methods, the data sources were university leaders, students, and several community members who were selected by random sampling, data collection was carried out by interview, observation and documentation study. The results of the study can be concluded that Muhammadiyah universities in Indonesia contribute significantly in handling the transmission of covid-19 through the production and distribution of Hand Sanitizer, production and distribution of medical face shields, distribution of groceries, online transfer of lectures, the provision of distance learning scholarships, work from home instruction, and socialization through operational cars.

**Keyword:** Contribution, Prevention, Covid-19

### Introduction

The corona virus that has swept the world has caused various new problems for human life. In the health aspect, Covid-19 has caused many victims to die in the world (Zhang et al., 2020), in the economic field the corona virus has made it difficult for many people to make ends meet (Ozili & Arun, 2020), (Roy, 2020), (Susilawati et al., 2020), while in the educational aspect, each level of education transfers the online learning process (AW Ritonga et al., 2020), (Abidah et al., 2020), (M. Ritonga et al., 2020), (Suparman et al., 2020). Likewise, in the field of work, many companies have terminated employment relations with employees due to difficulties in paying their salaries (Inayah & Surisman, 2020), (Rahma & Arvianti, 2020).

The extent of the impact of covid-19 on human life requires the involvement of all parties to be actively involved in finding solutions according to their respective abilities and positions, because if you only hope for the government, handling the impact of covid-19 will be slower. Muhammadiyah as one of the largest community organizations in Indonesia has long shown its active participation in finding solutions to all problems that arise in the Indonesia country (Rusydi, 2016), (Syahputra, 2014). This participation can be seen from the involvement of various business charities in seeking solutions to every problem faced by the nation whether problems in the fields of religion, social, economy, health and so on (Suyadi et al., 2020).

One of the Muhammadiyah organization's charities is Muhammadiyah and Aisyiyah colleges. The existence of Muhammadiyah universities in various provinces and cities

in Indonesia also has a function to provide enlightenment in finding solutions faced by the nation as befits other charities owned by Muhammadiyah. Therefore this research is intended to reveal the form of participation and real contribution of Muhammadiyah higher education in preventing the transmission of covid-19.

Therefore, Muhammadiyah and Muhammadiyah Higher Education played an important role in overcoming the impact of this Covid-19. Muhammadiyah University of West Sumatra as one of the Muhammadiyah Universities has taken concrete steps in order to deal with the pandemic problem. In this scientific article, the author will describe several policies and concrete actions that have been taken by this university as a form of concern and efforts to deal with the impact of Covid-19, both on campus and on the wider community. With the aim of achieving the goals of the Tri Dharma Perguruan Tinggi, and the existence of Muhammadiyah Higher Education can be felt by the community, especially in difficult times such as the conditions during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Methodology

#### Research Approach

The research was carried out using a multidisciplinary scientific and interdisciplinary approach, this is based on a typical research that requires an approach in various scientific fields, namely the Covid-19 problem that affects various sectors of life must also be disclosed according to related fields. While methodologically the approach used in this research is qualitative, because what will be revealed is related to the meaning contained in actions and facts in the

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research location.

## Research Setting

This research was conducted in four cities in the West Sumatra Region, Indonesia, to be precise Padang City, Padang Panjang City, Bukittinggi City and Payakumbuh City, these four cities were used as research sites because the West Sumatra Muhammadiyah University Campus is located in these four cities, while the time needed The completion of this research lasted for 6 months, from April to September 2020.

## Research Participant

Participants who were involved in this research were university leaders and students, the leaders in question were starting from the level of the head of the institution with 3 people, 12 heads of administration for each faculty, 3 people from the PR department. Other participants who were included in this study were students who were selected purposively, according to the research that had been carried out by purposive selection of informants, the number of students who became informants was 48 people, this number was based on the taking of each faculty as many as four people.

## Data collection

The data to be obtained from informants is related to the active participation of Muhammadiyah universities in preventing the transmission of covid-19, for that data collection techniques used in this study are interviews,

documentation and observation studies, the form of interview used is structured, this is because get information focused on the steps taken by the leadership in preventing Covid-19. The documentation in question is to collect data from documents available at the Muhammadiyah University of West Sumatra related to the prevention of Covid-19. Observation is used in this study to collect data that occurs in the field by being actively involved.

## Data analysis

All data collected were then analyzed through four stages, namely data display, data reduction, interpretation and conclusion. To ensure the validity of the data, this study used triangulation of sources, techniques, time. Source triangulation is meant here is that data obtained from certain sources is verified with other sources, as well as data obtained through certain techniques, verification is carried out using other techniques, and time triangulation means that the data obtained at a certain time is verified at a certain time. different.

## Results and Discussion

In accordance with the results obtained, it is known that as a form of concern for Muhammadiyah Higher Education in overcoming the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, there are seven policies and concrete actions that have been taken by Muhammadiyah University of West Sumatra for the internal campus community and the wider community in West Sumatra, participation and contribution. can be seen in the following table:

Table 1. PTM Contribution in Overcoming Covid-19 Transmission

No.	Form Participant	Parties who get
1	Hand sanitizer production	Campus internal and external
2	Produce and share medical faces	Internal and external
3	Groceries	External
4	During	Internal
5	During College Scholarships	Internal
6	Work from home	Internal
7	Socialization	Internal and external

The data contained in table 1 above can be explained that the Muhammadiyah University of West Sumatra shows its participation in anticipating the transmission of covid-19 by

producing hand sanitizers, this is in accordance with the results of the documentation that the researchers did as in Figure 1

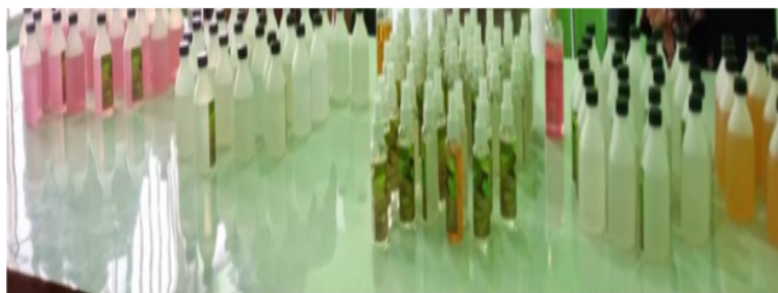


Figure 1. Production Results of Hand Sanitizer, Faculty of Pharmacy, Muhammadiyah University of West Sumatra

The success in producing this hand sanitizer cannot be separated from the encouragement of both the morale and material of the university leadership to the pharmacy faculty to contribute in anticipating the transmission of covid-19. The hand sanitizers that have been produced are then distributed to internal and external parties for free,

especially places that are public facilities such as mosques, according to the results of interviews conducted by researchers with mosque administrators, they expressed their gratitude for the distribution of this hand sanitizer, because in covid-19 conditions besides significantly increased prices are also difficult to obtain.

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As reported by merdeka.com, hand sanitizer is an antiseptic hand sanitizer that comes from a mixture of chemicals and can be used to sterilize the human body which is infested by microorganisms such as germs, bacteria, and bad viruses that reproduce in the cells of living things, including Corona virus that is currently endemic. The importance of washing hands regularly during this pandemic has made some people hunt for hand sanitizers even though the price has soared. As recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) to produce their own hand sanitizers, lecturers and students of the UMSB Faculty of Science and Technology, Pharmacy Studies study program collaborated in producing hand sanitizers to be distributed to the community around the campus and public facilities.

The UMSB Public Relations writer interviewed by cellular telephone on Friday, May 8, 2020, explained that the hand sanitizers produced by lecturers and students of Pharmacy Studies have been distributed to the community around the campus, students living around the campus, and distributed to facilities. public such as hospitals and other public facilities in the region or region through the Muhammadiyah Covid-19 Command Center (MCCC). This contribution can be said to be a form and effort to deal with the spread of covid-19, because it is in accordance with several research results that washing hands is part of real action to anticipate the transmission of covid-19 (Jing et al., 2020), (Berardi et al., 2020). Apart from that, Islam also reminds us of the importance of maintaining cleanliness (Amin et al., 2020) one of which can be done by washing hands.

Muhammadiyah University of West Sumatra also produces mass production of medical face shields, as reported by haluanria.co, the leadership of the University revealed that UMSB has taken various forms of concern as an effort to prevent Covid-19 transmission, both for internal and external campus. After the production of hand sanitizers by lecturers and students of Pharmacy Studies, it was continued with the production of Medical Face Shield by the Faculty of Engineering. This was done as a form of UMSB's concern for medical personnel who are fighting at the forefront of fighting the spread of Covid-19.

*Medical Face Shield* this has been distributed by the UMSB Covid-19 Care Team to several cities in West Sumatra, especially hospitals that handle Covid-19 patients directly. This contribution is expressed by the researchers that MFS is needed in the covid-19 conditions (Rizki & Kurniawan, 2020), (Matuschek et al., 2020). Because by using MFS, transmission of virus-19 through its attachment to the face will be minimized (Chua et al., 2020), (Dwirisman, 2020), (Worby & Chang, 2020). The contribution of UMSB in the procurement of MFS can be felt internally and externally by the campus without having to spend money.

In addition, the Muhammadiyah University of West Sumatra also participates in distributing basic necessities. Facing this pandemic period, the community seems like a dilemma, on the one hand they have to work to make a living to meet their daily needs, while on the other hand they have to obey the rules to stay at home (Chee, 2020), (Chen et al., 2020). Moreover, people generally work outside the home, such as traders, laborers, drivers, and the like. The need for foodstuffs is very urgent to be in stock during this pandemic, while finance is no longer adequate, including students who have to survive overseas for the smooth running of online lectures. Therefore, UMSB took action to distribute groceries to the community and also compensation to students affected by Covid-19.

As explained by the Public Relations Division of UMSB a few days ago, these basic necessities and compensation have been distributed to students who live around the campus or stay in their boarding houses. Staple foods were also distributed to local communities affected by this pandemic. UMSB in collaboration with MCCC also distributes basic necessities to the people of the West Sumatra region, and the distribution is submitted to MCCC.

To anticipate the transmission of covid-19, UMSB also takes a policy so that lectures are carried out during the course. In accordance with the Ministry of Education and Culture Circular No. 4 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Education Policies in the Covid-19 Emergency Period, that since March 16, 2020 all forms of learning activities in all educational institutions in Indonesia are closed or transferred to homes, including universities. UMSB issued UMSB Chancellor's Circular No.0253/II.3.AU/F/2020 concerning the Policy of the University of Muhammadiyah Sumatra West regarding the Prevention of COVID-19, that all forms of lecture activities are transferred to online or online lectures until the next circulation is issued. This Circular Letter was followed by Circular of the Chancellor of UMSB No.0323/II.3.AU/F/2020, that online lecture activities will be effective until 02 June 2020. This was done in response to the West Sumatra government's protocol, in an effort to avoid direct contact and associations that caused crowds. So that social distancing, physical distancing, and stay at home must be applied, and it has even been upgraded to Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) in the administrative area of West Sumatra.

These learning distance are conducted through various platforms or the best application features that support the implementation of distance learning (Suparman et al., 2020). Interestingly, UMSB also collaborates with Telkomsel to provide free internet quota for students, as an effort to reduce student expenses in getting internet quota to carry out lectures online.

Since the online lecture period has to be extended because Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) have been enforced in the West Sumatra region, UMSB provides Distance Learning scholarships to assist students in implementing online lectures. This scholarship is given in order to help students buy internet package quotas during online lectures. This is intended so that students are not overwhelmed by the use of quite a lot of internet quota during this online college period.

This learning distance scholarship is prioritized for students who come from economically vulnerable or underprivileged families, the requirements for getting the scholarship are accompanied by a Certificate of Disability (SKTM) from the sub-district where the student is domiciled, then all data is inputted online via the link provided by UMSB .

Based on UMSB Chancellor's Circular No.0323/II.3.AU/F/2020 regarding the Policy of the University of Muhammadiyah Sumatra West regarding the Prevention of COVID-19, that all activities of the UMSB academic community at all levels and faculties must be carried out online from their respective homes or WFH, both students, lecturers, employees and other employees. The entire UMSB academic community is also prohibited from traveling abroad in any way, and it is recommended not to travel outside the region. In this Circular, it is also explained that all forms of campus administration services are carried out online, and within a certain time administrative staff shifts are applied. The instructions in this Circular Letter are

valid until 02 June 2020.

The UMSB Public Relations Division said that this socialization was carried out by the UMSB in collaboration with Muhammadiyah Peduli using an ambulance. Officers who have been appointed to travel around the city of Padang use the car to urge the public to adhere to the rules for staying at home, washing their hands regularly, maintaining a clean and healthy lifestyle, avoiding gatherings or crowds, checking themselves into health facilities when experiencing illness or have a fever, spray disinfectant around each house, and when leaving the house it is expected to comply with the physical distancing appeal, namely maintaining a safe distance from other people in order to protect oneself, family, and others from spreading the corona virus. Through this, a contact number that the public can contact to update information related to Covid-19 is also informed. This socialization is considered very beneficial for the general public, because not all people get the same information from each village they live in.

### Conclusion

The explanation above, it can be concluded that there were several policies taken by the Muhammadiyah University of West Sumatra in the face of this Covid-19 pandemic. There are three policies for campus internals such as WFH instruction, online lectures, and PJJ Scholarships. Then four other actions apply to the internal and external environment of the campus or the wider community, namely the production and distribution of hand sanitizers, production and distribution of medical face shields for medical personnel, distribution of compensation and basic necessities, and socialization through operational cars to urge the public to make efforts. Efforts to prevent the transmission of Covid-19. Hopefully the caring actions that have been taken by the Muhammadiyah University of West Sumatra together with Muhammadiyah Cares and the Muhammadiyah Covid-19 Command Center, can overcome the impact of this Covid-19 pandemic. So that Muhammadiyah and Muhammadiyah Universities deserve to be used as role models in society in general.

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