

The Attitude of the Acehese Community on the New Normal COVID-19

Safuwani Amin^{1*}, Ella Suzanna², Rahmia Dewi³, Ika Amalia⁴, Cut Ita Zahara⁵

¹⁻⁵Department of Psychology, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Malikussaleh, Aceh—Indonesia

*Corresponding Author Email: safuwani@unimal.ac.id

ABSTRACT

Background: The emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the order and social norms that have been followed by societies and nations in various segments of life. The attitudes in psychology are understood as the positive or negative appraisal of reactions to objects, people, events, situations, etc. which allows individuals to predict their social reality.

Objectives: This study aims to explain comparative the attitude of the rural citizens from the North Aceh district and urban citizens from Lhokseumawe city in the new normal era of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Method: This study uses a quantitative design with descriptive methods in explaining individual attitudes in the cognitive, affective, and conative domains related to the new normal era of the Covid-19 pandemic by utilizing chi-square analysis (χ^2).

Result: There are significant differences in attitudes between rural and urban residents in the realities of Acehese society regarding the application of a new normal life during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Keywords: Attitude, Acehese community, New normal era, Covid-19 pandemic

1. INTRODUCTION

The coronavirus outbreaks (Covid-19) is a disease without frightening symptoms in the world community. The disease outbreak that first emerged in November 2019 in Wuhan, China, has spread rapidly throughout the world. Update Covid-19 in the world mid-July 2020, the number of confirmed Covid-19 residents was 14,172,47 people died. 5,157,500 active cases, with details of 5,097,566 patients with mild conditions and 59,934 in serious conditions [1] In Indonesia, the Covid-19 outbreak on (18/07/2020) exposed to Covid-19 was 84,882 positive cases, the number recovered as many as positive patients, 65 people were declared cured, and 8 people died [2]. This reality psychologically creates a state of panic and anxiety in the world community, including

Indonesia. The Indonesian government since the end of February 2020 has implemented a social distancing policy because Covid-19 is considered a humanitarian disaster. However, Covid-19 also shows no signs of abating. Based on this evaluation, in early June 2020, Indonesia implemented a new era of normality throughout the archipelago to break the chain of movement of the coronavirus by implementing the health protocol issued by the WHO.

The term new normal is not a new concept that appears during this coronavirus disease. LaBarre in 2003 who analyzed the opinion of Roger McNamee [3], about the 'new normal' concluded that the new normal context will always occur throughout human life. Taylor (2019) explains that a disease pandemic is ready

to affect the psychological condition of humans widely and massively, both in terms of thinking, ways of responding to and understanding information about health and illness, conditions of strengthening negative emotions (fear, worry, anxiety) or social action in reality (avoidance, stigmatization, healthy behavior) [4]. Besides, psychological pandemics can also lead to prejudice and discrimination in other groups (outgroups). Furthermore, the psychological dynamics aspect also plays a role in a new normal life because the Covid-19 pandemic continues to develop. Agung (2020) mentions that information processing and cognitive bias, emotional and behavioral changes, as well as social and conformity influences are aspects of the psychological dynamics facing the coronavirus outbreak. Psychological dynamics cannot be separated from the interaction of personal characteristics (personality, values, knowledge), situations (culture, norms, religion), and government policies to handle the Covid-19 pandemic [5]. Dana Riksa Buana (2020) saw the existence of a cognitive bias in the community that could be slow to prevent the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, there are still many residents who do not heed the government's appeal to implement health protocols in various public places [6].

Glancing at some of these studies, this study aims to explain the attitudes of the Acehnese who live in rural and urban areas, by taking samples of residents of North Aceh and residents of Lhokseumawe city in the new normal era of the Covid-19 pandemic. The results of the literature review have not found a similar study conducted by people from the perspective of applied social psychology (which emphasizes socio-religious-cultural analysis). Atkinsom et.al, (1996) [7], calls attitudes a positive or negative evaluation of objects, people, events, situations, or other aspects and allows individuals to predict and

change behavior in their lives. Eagly and Chaiken (1993) [8] describe human attitudes in two terms, (1) Attitude is a combination of dynamic psychological realities; affective, cognitive, and conative, and (2) Attitude as a positive or negative assessment of a particular object which is expressed with a certain intensity.

2. METHOD

This study uses a quantitative design with descriptive methods [9], which focuses on the aspects that shape attitudes; cognitive, affective, and individual behavior tendencies in empirical reality. This study wants to emphasize the comparison of the attitudes of Acehnese living in rural areas (sample of residents of North Aceh district) and urban areas (sample of Lhokseumawe residents) which differ on the new adaptation to normal during the Covid-19 pandemic. Samples were taken randomly with incidental sampling, namely 100 rural residents (Aceh Utara community) and 100 urban residents (Lhokseumawe community). Data analysis made use of the chi-square test (χ^2) [10].

3. RESULT

Reality of Participants

The affirmation of this study looks at the comparison of the attitudes of Acehnese living in urban villages and related to new life adaptations in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic. The samples of this study were rural residents in Aceh Utara district and urban residents (Lhokseumawe). Samples were taken randomly by incidental sampling, namely, 50 people from North Aceh district (Sawang, Matangkuli, Cot Girek) and 50 residents of Lhokseumawe city (Mon Geudong, Cunda and Kampung Jawa). Respondent criteria; cross-job, aged 25 -60 years, male and female,

have a junior high school education - Bachelor degree and are willing to be a participant.

a. Characteristics of Respondents

Table 4.1: Respondents based on gender

| No | Gender | Respondents | Percentage |
|-------|--------|---------------|------------|
| 1 | Male | 79 respondent | 79% |
| 2 | Female | 21 respondent | 21% |
| Total | | 100 | 100% |

Source: Results research, 2020

When viewed from the sex of the population in the two study areas (rural and urban), the attitudes of residents towards the implementation of the new normal conditions for the Covid-19 pandemic were generally dominated by men (79%), namely 36 respondents. from rural areas (Aceh Utara), and 43 respondents came from urban areas (Lhokseumawe). Another small proportion (21%) was responded to by women (mothers) who are generally residents who live in urban areas.

Table 4.2: Respondents by Aged

| No | Age | Respondents | Percentage |
|-------|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 | 25 – 35 years | 15 respondent | 15% |
| 2 | 36 – 45 years | 32 respondent | 32% |
| 3 | 46 – 55 years | 40 respondent | 40% |
| 4 | 56– 60 years | 11 respondent | 11% |
| 5 | 61 years and over | 2 respondent | 2% |
| Total | | 100 (N) | 100% |

Source: Results research, 2020

When analyzed in terms of the age of the respondents, the new normal condition in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic, many were assessed by the age group 36-45 years, around 32% of residents came from urban areas (21%) and rural residents (12%). The rest of, participants who assessed the context of adapting to new normal life during the Covid-19 pandemic were age groups; 25-35 years (15%), 56-65 years (11%), and a small proportion (2%) are the age group of 61 and over.

Table 4.3: Respondents by education

| No | Eduction | Respondents | Percentage |
|-------|--------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 | Junior high school | 12 respondent | 12% |
| 2 | Senior high School | 25 respondent | 25% |
| 3 | Academy (D3) | 13 respondent | 13% |
| 4 | Scholar (S1) | 50 respondent | 50% |
| Total | | 100 (N) | 100% |

Source: Results research, 2020

The education reality of the respondents in this study is that they are educated people, that is, most of the participants (50%) have a bachelor's degree, represented by (30%) urban residents (Lhokseumawe), and a small proportion (20%) rural residents (Aceh Utara). For the rest, the education of the respondents varied (25%) had a high school education (ie, 15% were dominated by rural residents, and 10% were urban residents). Respondents whose educational status is academy (D3) only 15% and a small proportion (12%) of respondents with junior high school education status from the total sample of this study.

Table 4.4: Respondents by occupation

| No | Occupation | Respondents | Percentage |
|-------|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 | Traders | 27 respondent | 27% |
| 2 | Enterpriser | 34 respondent | 34% |
| 3 | Private employees | 17 respondent | 17% |
| 4 | PNS | 20 respondent | 20% |
| 5 | ect | 10 respondent | 10% |
| Total | | 100 (N) | 100% |

Source: Results research, 2020

From the job description analysis, most of the respondents in this study (34%) were dominated by the self-employed group (independent/casual workers), followed by the entrepreneur group (27%) and state servants (20%). A small proportion (17%) of private employees and others (10%). In terms of employment, there are no differences between rural and urban residents in responding to the new normal conditions for the Covid-19 pandemic.

a. The attitudes of respondents to the new normal pandemic Covid-19

Based on the calculation and analysis of some items studied empirically, the description of the attitude of the Acehnese is by taking a sample of rural residents in the North Aceh region and urban residents in the Lhokseumawe City area, as presented in table 4.5 below:

Table 4.5: The attitudes of the Aceh community on the New normal Covid-19

| The Attitude of Aceh community | Appraisal | New Normal Covid-19 | | Total (%) |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| | | Rural citizens (AU) | Urban Citizens (LS) | |
| Cognitive Affective Conative | Positive | 8 % | 30% | 38% |
| | Neutral | 6% | 3% | 9% |
| | Negative | 40% | 13% | 53% |
| Total | | 54% | 46% | 100% |

Source: Results research, 2020

The description of Table 4.5 above indicates that the attitudes of respondents who live in rural areas (Aceh Utara) are mostly negative (40%), and residents who live in urban areas

(Lhokseumawe city) tend to be positive (30%). A small proportion of residents (in the two research areas) were neutral (9%) in the new normal coronavirus era.

4. DISCUSSION

The findings of this study indicate that there are significant differences in the attitudes of rural residents and urban residents to the new normal conditions for the Covid-19 pandemic which have been adopted by the government throughout Indonesia, especially in the province of Aceh. The attitude of the Acehnese, in general, cannot necessarily be claimed to be negative or positive in the new normal coronavirus era. However, it must be differentiated according to the social realities of life of the citizens in general. Most of the attitudes of rural residents tend to be negative, while residents who live in urban areas are more likely to be positive about adapting to a new normal life. This is caused by several things; experience of the life of residents, beliefs, and socio-cultural norms that have developed and are still held firmly by rural residents. This context is different from urban residents, where urban residents empirically the reality of their pluralist society and prioritize their safety and comfort to continue to exist in their social environment.

5. CONCLUSION

The attitude is practically understood as a reaction and evaluation of several stimuli that hit the individual (citizen) in their social reality. Attitudes are learned and measured through cognitive, affective, and conative components as the basis for a person (citizen) to behave in his life. Departing from this conception, the findings of this study also provide information on the reality of the attitudes of the Acehnese (by taking

a sample of North Aceh who live in rural areas and residents of Lhokseumawe City). The attitudes of rural residents are mostly negative, while the attitudes shown by urban residents tend to be about conditions that are not pleasant in reality. Therefore, this study concludes that there are differences in the attitudes of Acehnese people regarding the new adaptation to normal life during the Covid-19 pandemic.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Kompas.com (2020). *Update Covid-19 di Aceh, Sumut, Sumbar, Riau, Kepri, Jambi, dan Bengkulu.* <https://regional.kompas.com/read/2020/07/18/16260091/update-covid-19-di-aceh-sumut-sumbar-riau-kepri-jambi-dan-bengkulu-18-juli>
- [2]. Kompas.com (2020). *Update Virus Corona di Dunia 17 Juli: 13,9 Juta Orang Terinfeksi Rusia Disebut Retas Penelitian Vaksin Covid-19.* <https://www.kompas.com/tren/read/2020/07/17/082700365/update-virus-corona-di-dunia-17-juli--13-9-juta-orang-terinfeksi-rusia?page=all>.
- [3]. Ginting, Hendry. *Perubahan Perilaku sebagai Respon Terhadap Wabah Covid-19.* <https://himpsi.or.id/blog/materi-edukasi-covid-19-5/post/perubahan-perilaku-sebagai-respon-terhadap-wabah-covid-19-127>, 2020.
- [4]. Taylor, S. (2019). *The Psychology of Pandemics: Preparing for the Next Global Outbreak of Infectious Disease.* Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- [5]. Agung, Ivan Muhammad (2020). Memahami Pandemi COVID-19 dalam Perspektif Psikologi Sosial, *Psikobuletin: Bulletin Ilmiah Psikologi*, 1(2), hal. 68-84. <https://doi.org/10.24014/pib.v1i2.9616>
- [6]. Buana, Dana Riksa (2020). Analisis Perilaku Masyarakat Indonesia dalam Menghadapi

Pandemi Virus Corona (Covid-19) dan Kiat Menjaga Kesejahteraan Jiwa, *SALAM: Jurnal Sosial & Budaya Syar'i*. 7(3), pp. 217-226. <https://doi.org/10.15408/sjsbs.v7i3.15082>

- [7]. Omran, M. S. (2014). The Effect of Educating Environmental Ethics on Behavior and Attitude to Environment Protection. *European Online Journal of Natural and Social Science*, 3(3), 141–151. <http://european-science.com/eojnss/article/view/1905>
- [8]. Ugulu, I., et.al. (2017). High School Students Environmental Attitude: Scale Development and Validation. *International of Educational Sciences*, 5(4), 415–424. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09751122.2013.11890103>
- [9]. Creswell, J.W (2010). *Research Design Pendekatan Kualitatif, Kuantitatif, dan Mixed*. (Terj. Ahmad Fawaid), Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar. Google Scholar.
- [10]. Siegel, S (2013). *Statistik Nonparametrik Untuk Ilmu-Ilmu Sosial*, [terj.], Jakarta: Gramedia