

# The Effect of Pandemic Covid-19 on Christianity in Durian Lingga Village Indonesia

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**Abstract**—The purpose of this study was to find out the views of Christians about Covid-19 and its effect on Christianity according to 1 Peter 4:12-19 in this village. The research method is quantitative by first making a theoretical study for the source of the instrument distributed in the sample. Calculations using SPSS 19. The results of this study indicate that the Covid-19 pandemic has begun to be well understood by every Christian in Durian Lingga Village, although not optimally, so it needs to be further improved. Christians in this village still do not understand well about Christianity according to 1 Peter 4:12-19. The impact of this Covid-19 Pandemic is very strong, making them stay away from God, can't stand suffering, they can't stand and can't wait to go through this difficult situation, unable to carry the cross, don't trust only in God, don't believe that suffering will purify the believer's faith and there is joy for every believer who is able to endure suffering, as promised by the Lord Jesus, that those who endure suffering will surely get eternal glory with the Father in heaven. **Research Contribution:** This research adds to the insight of Christians, namely that Christians should understand well about the covid-19 virus so that Christians have the right attitude in dealing with this pandemic such as being ready to suffer and faithfully glorifying God throughout life.

**Keywords**—Christianity; Pandemic Covid-19; 1 Peter 4:12-19

## I. INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) is a disease caused by a new type of coronavirus, namely Sars-CoV-2, which was first reported in Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei Province, China, with a population of about 11 million people on December 31, 2019. WHO (World Health Organization or world health agency) officially declared the corona virus (covid-19) as a pandemic on March 11, 2020. This means that the corona virus has spread widely in the world, in other words this outbreak is a problem with the citizens of the world. This forces all countries to implement health protocols in order to break the chain of spread of Covid-19.[1]

The Covid-19 pandemic forces humans to limit their social interaction space, starting from avoiding handshakes, maintaining distance, avoiding crowds and so on. The Covid-19 pandemic has given rise to a new order that is often called the new normal. New normal is a new order, habit and behavior based on adaptation to cultivate clean and healthy living behavior, in other words new normal is a new order for a better life goal during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Covid-19 pandemic has made people all over the world suffer because of its impact on aspects of human life also making many people wonder about the existence of God in this situation. Humans do not only suffer materially from outside themselves, but also suffer from those that arise from within. Such as the emergence of worries about survival, fear of death, restlessness and restlessness because of an unsettled heart and mind.

In this Covid-19 pandemic situation, it will be seen how humans respond in the face of this Covid-19 pandemic.

The public's response to the COVID-19 pandemic varies. Party events are cancelled. Schools are held online. Work in the office is done at home. Worship in the church was replaced with worship online at home. This disrupts social, economic and religious life.[2] The community has done various things for this Covid-19 pandemic. Iwi ethnic groups and Maori organizations in Aotearoa (New Zealand) adopt a cultural approach namely 'noho i te kāinga'(stay at home), 'noho haumaru'(stay safe), 'rāhui'(restrictions, prohibitions) and 'mate karauna' (coronavirus).[3] Christians in Kenya claim that the pandemic is a punishment from God; the only way out of this is through repentance performed in a place of worship. This is met with opposition from scientists who think this pandemic must be responded to scientifically.[4]

Different things were done by the people of Durian Lingga Village, Langkat Regency. The people there are predominantly Karo tribes consisting of Muslims and Christians making cultural rituals to ward off the COVID-19 pandemic. They make offerings of grilled corn, young coconut, betel and cimpa (traditional Karo food) to the residents of Ninin Gedang. They believe that by giving food to Ninin Gedang, this village community will be protected from Covid-19 and this pandemic will pass quickly.[5]

This article examines the Christian community in this Durian Lingga Village. The Word of God in 1 Peter 4:12-19 says that Christians must be prepared to suffer. Do not be ashamed to suffer as a Christian, even though he is faced with persecution or suffering for the name of Christ, he should still glorify God and realize that suffering or persecution is God's will so that he continues to surrender his soul and always do good for his Creator. The events that occurred in Durian Lingga Village were far from the expectations written in the Bible. The Christians there are still participating in the ritual of giving offerings to the Ninin Gedang. Of course this raises questions, namely: (1) How do Christians understand the Covid-19 Pandemic in Durian Lingga Village, Langkat Regency in 2020? (2) How is Christianity according to 1 Peter 4:12-19 in Durian Lingga Village, Langkat Regency in 2020? (3) How does the Covid-19 pandemic affect Christianity according to 1 Peter 4:12-19 in Durian Lingga Village, Langkat Regency in 2020.

**II. METHOD**

This article uses quantitative research methods sourced from several articles such as the writings of Zaenal Arifin[6], Sukmadinata[7], Suharsaputra[8]. The place of this research is Durian Lingga Village, Sei Bingai District, Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province, which was held from October to December 2020. The population is Christians in this village, which is recorded in four churches namely GMII Logos Langkat, GBI Namu Tating , GBKP Runggun Namu Tating and GBKP Durian Lingga. The distribution of this population is shown in table 1 below.

TABLE I. POPULATION

No	No	Church
1	1	GMII “Logos” Langkat
2	2	GBI Namu Tating
3	3	GBKP Runggun Namu Tating
4	4	GBKP Durian Lingga
Total	Total	

Researchers took a sample of 10% of the population, that is 50 people. According to the population comparison, using simple random sampling technique, then for each church, the authors take the following sample comparisons:

TABLE II. SAMPEL

No	Church	Number of Congregations (persons)
1	GMII “Logos” Langkat	120x10:100 = 12
2	GBI Namu Tating	130 x10:100 = 13
3	GBKP Runggun Namu Tating	120 x10:100 = 12
4	GBKP Durian Lingga	130 x10:100 = 13
Total		50

The research instrument uses a Linkert scale statement. The initial instrument consisted of 45 statement items. The instrument is given to 3 experts who know this topic with the criteria of statement items with an average value of 2.6 who pass the construction test of this instrument. All statement items are declared to have passed the construction test. Then the instrument was given to 30 people to test the validity of the content, whose analysis was carried out through orthogonal iterations. The

orthogonal iteration value was determined beforehand by using the criteria of 0.361 with a significance of 0.05 two tailed. The critical value of the correlation coefficient is determined by using the degrees of freedom (df)  $n = 2$ . If the number of trial respondents is 30, then  $df, 30-2 = 28$  at a significant level of 0.05 two using the Pearson product correlation formula moment or can use SPSS 19.0 tools. The results obtained after the questionnaire test were 34 valid items and 11 invalid items. Based on the calculation of SPSS 19.0, the reliability test with the Cronbach's Alpha formula is acceptable with the number of respondents being 30 people, amounting to 0.961. Then the reliability test that is declared reliable.

Based on the exegesis of 1 Peter 4:12-19, a study of dimensions and indicators is obtained as shown in table 3 below. Then an instrument is made based on the dimensions and indicators of the results of the exegesis.

TABLE III. INSTRUMENT GRID

Variable	Dimension	Indicator	No. Item	Quantity
(X) Pandemic Covid-19	The Covid-19 Pandemic Makes Suffering for Social Life	Social Distance	1,2,3	3
		Lifestyle Depends On Technology	4,5	2
		Fear of Death	6,7,8,9	4
		Pessimist	10,11,12	3
(Y) Christianity According to 1 Peter 4:12-19	Suffering as a Test	Wish to God	13,14,15,16,17	5
		Purifying Faith	18,19,20,21	4
		Obedience Required	22,23,24	3
		Carrying the Cross	25,26,27,28,29	5
	Suffering Leads to Trials	Joy	30,31,32	3
		Achieving Glory	33,34	2

### III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

#### A. Level of Understanding about Covid-19

There was a previous study conducted by Z. Sun, B. Yang, R. Zhang, and X. Cheng that the gender, age, and self-care abilities of the elderly were significantly correlated with their level of understanding of COVID-19, and that they younger women have a higher level of understanding. [9]

The results showed that the level of understanding of the Christian community about the

COVID-19 pandemic was in the medium to high category. This is shown in table 4 below. This means that they already have knowledge about COVID-19 and their knowledge is increasing over time. Indeed, at the beginning of the pandemic, many people were very afraid and panicked about covid-19, but with increasing information about the pandemic, the Christian community there also understood and made them no longer panic in the face of covid-19.

TABLE IV. CATEGORY CLASS VARIABLE UNDERSTANDING ABOUT COVID-19

Class Category	Class Interval Values	Lower Bound and Upper Bound
Very low	42 – 45,6	
Low	45,6 – 49,2	
Medium	49,2 – 52,8	<b>50,982 until 53,898</b>
High	52,8 – 56,4	
Very high	56,4 – 60	

In the observations of researchers in the field, it appears that they are willing to follow the advice from the Government to comply with health protocols, social distancing (maintaining distance), work, study and worship from home even though some churches have received permission from the local government to open churches and hold worship together but still in the established rules. The Christians in Durian Lingga Village have also understood that whatever happens to human life is with the permission of God Almighty. All is in the omniscience of God and His plan for human life. God gives a plan of peace for everyone who still believes and loves Him and makes the Lord Jesus as their protection. Every human being to live in this world must still fear God and stay away from the desire to sin, always rely on God, surrender to Him, believe in Him, and always obey and live in His word. So that during this Covid-19 Pandemic, Christians must be closer to God and more afraid of God.

#### B. Level of Christianity

The results of the study contained in table 5 show that the location of the Lower and Upper Bound values in the five classes is in the low category class. This states that the level of Christianity according to 1 Peter 4:12-19 in Durian Lingga Village, Langkat Regency in 2020 is low. This means that they have not been able to live in obedience to the Lord Jesus, have not been able to carry the cross, have not made the Lord Jesus a definite place of hope, and have not even understood that the suffering experienced by every believer

must bring blessings as stated in 1 Peter 4 the :12-19.

TABLE V. CATEGORY CLASS VARIABLE Y

Class Category	Class Interval Values	Lower Bound and Upper Bound
Very low	42 – 51	
Low	51 – 60	<b>54.148 until 58.652</b>
Medium	60 – 69	
High	69 – 78	
Very high	78 – 87	

*C. The Influence of Understanding Covid-19 on Christianity*

Based on table 6 below, the correlation coefficient (R), which is a value to measure the closeness of the relationship between predictor variables or independent variables, is 0.840. Based on the Interpretation of the Correlation Coefficient in table 7, the number can be interpreted that the relationship between X and Y variables has a very strong relationship.

The results of the analysis also show the coefficient of determination (R Square) of 0.705. This states that the contribution of the influence of the variable X on Y is 70.5%. These numbers mean that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Christianity according to 1 Peter 4:12-19 in Durian Lingga Village, Langkat Regency in 2020 is very strong.

TABLE VI. MODEL SUMMARY

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.840 <sup>a</sup>	.705	.699	4,3453

TABLE VII. CORRELATION COEFFICIENT INTERPRETATION [10]

Coefficient Interval	Relationship Level
0,00 – 0,199	Very low
0,20 – 0,399	Low
0,40 – 0,599	Medium
0,60 – 0,799	Strong
0,80 – 1,000	Very strong

The impact of this Covid-19 Pandemic is very strong for Christians in this village. This pandemic keeps them away from God, this pandemic makes them unable to endure suffering, it is proven that

when this pandemic makes them impatient and impatient to go through this difficult situation, unable to carry their cross, they do not hope only in God. They do not believe that suffering will purify human faith, bringing joy to every believer who is able to endure suffering. It is the promise of the Lord Jesus that those who endure suffering will surely have eternal glory with their Father in heaven. That is the meaning of suffering Christians as described in 1 Peter 4:12-19. The Christians in this Durian Lingga village do not understand well the meaning of Christianity according to 1 Peter 4:12-19 so that their Christianity remains low.

IV. CONCLUSION

In the introduction, the author provides three questions that have been answered in this study. Based on the results of this research note that (1) the level of the Christian understanding of Pandemic Covid-19 in the village of Linga Durian Langkat 2020 is heading higher. (2) Christianity according to 1 Peter 4:12-19 in Durian Lingga Village, Langkat Regency in 2020 is low. (3) The impact of a pandemic Covid-19 against Christianity according to 1 Peter 4: 12-19 in Durian Lingga Langkat 2020 was very strong. The researcher hopes that Christians will understand that the Covid-19 pandemic is an event that occurs around the world that occurs with the permission of God and in God's secret. It should be understood that whatever happens on this earth in it there must be a purpose and purpose of God. As a Christian who is responsible and who understand the meaning of Christianity well as in 1 Peter 4: 12-19, let should understand that people are resistant to the suffering and living in Christianity as it says in 1 Peter 4: 12-19, and believes that all something existing in God's design, his design is the design of the peace that gives believers a future full of hope. Believers will surely gain the promise of Jesus that there is hope when Christians are in the world they want even when already in heaven, the Christian life is to glorify God.

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