Mass Media and Social Distancing Regulations to Prevent the Spread of the Covid-19 Virus Outbreak in Indonesia

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Abstract
The current outbreak of the corona virus is becoming increasingly worrisome. More and more people became infected with the corona virus, with some even succumbing to their illness and dying as a result of the virus's spread. Today, social media is a popular means of communicating outside traditional means. In order to prevent the spread of this new disease, Authors like to share experiences as who has been infected with the corona virus, as well as to warn others to stay at home and take care of themselves in order to avoid contracting the sickness. Descriptive qualitative research is employed in this study. It is the goal of this study to educate community members and millennial youth with information and an overview so that they can pay more attention to social ties in society and
avoid societal changes as a result of false news causing undue worry. According to the study's findings, the community's usage of social media and other online tools has increased its members' access to information. A large false news campaign about social isolation preceded this, despite the government's call to heed the recommendations relating to social isolation.

**KEYWORDS**
Corona Virus • Social transformation • Social Distance • Social media

**Abstrak**

**KATA KUNCI**
Virus Corona • Transformasi sosial • Social Distancing • Media sosial
A. Introduction

It has been difficult for the government to keep up with the spread of knowledge about the corona virus, which has necessitated additional work for the government and its agencies. When the government gets involved in examining whether or not rumors going about are real, it turns into government work. The corona virus outbreak seems to be expanding rapidly in the mass media, and each day brings new information about patients afflicted with the virus. There was some concern that public panic and hoaxes might follow if the government initially reported this corona news because of the potential for personal or group gain for those who would intentionally take advantage of this situation.¹

¹ Even the Head of the Eijkman Mocular Biology Institute, Amin Soebandrio, assessed that public panic regarding cases of positive patients with the corona virus occurred due to unclear information from the government. According to him, when it was announced that there was a positive, it seemed as if the community was being stomped and the government had not yet had time to provide clear information so that all people considered this an uncertain situation. See Achmad Nasrudin Yahya, "Kepanikan Masyarakat soal Virus Corona akibat Informasi yang Kurang Jelas dari Pemerintah", KOMPAS, March 5 (2020) Retrieved <from https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2020/03/05/07263001/kepanikan-masyarakat-soal-virus-corona-akibat-informasi-yang-kurang-jelas>. Some studies revealed that first, the media has given a kind of warning that maybe a health crisis will occur in Indonesia. It is known that the corona virus first occurred in Wuhan, China. Since in Wuhan, the mysterious pneumonia has also been reported to Indonesia. It may also be because of China’s close geographical area with Indonesia. But it was judged that the media failed to describe the scale of the crisis that would occur in Indonesia. Then the media actually dissolved in conspiracy theories. Like the Corona virus, for example, it is a biological weapon from China and all kinds. The issue was very difficult to verify at that time. Because many of the sources of Covid-19 news come from the government, it is as if the media is voicing the government's narrative on the issue of the pandemic. The media also welcomes hoaxes and misinformation circulating a lot on social media. It is capitalized even by the media without any critical attitude towards the information contained in social media. Then the media reported the arrival of Covid-19 with excessive projections of fear and panic. Like when the news of the first and second Covid-19 patients was found in Depok. See also Balachandar Vellingiri, et al. "COVID-19: A promising cure for the global panic." Science of the total environment 725 (2020): 138277; Dana Riksa Buana, "Analisis perilaku masyarakat indonesia dalam menghadapi pandemi virus corona (Covid-19) dan kiat menjaga kesejahteraan jiwa." Salam: Jurnal Sosial dan Budaya Syar'i 7, No. 3 (2020): 217-226; Fatima Mukhtar, and Neha Mukhtar. "Coronavirus (COVID-19): Let’s prevent not panic." Journal of Ayub Medical College Abbottabad 32, No. 1 (2020): 141-144; Ririn Purba,
According to the Oxford English Dictionary, hoax is an act of deceit that is intended to be humorous or harmful. Fake news in Indonesian is known as "hoax." Another definition of hoaxes is derision, lying and deception or deception in the English language.\(^2\) It is claimed that the term hoax has existed since the early 1800s, when the industrial revolution was taking place in England, in his book entitled "Sins Against Science, The Scientific Media Hoaxes of Poe and Twain, and Others". Journalists use the term "libel" to describe hoaxes, which are false stories that can lead to defamation lawsuits.\(^3\)

The role of social media in the dissemination of news and information is a bridge that can impact social change in the community. In social media, the focus is on the existence of users and the facilitation of activities and collaboration between them.\(^4\) People who follow government advice to cut back on time spent on things outside the home may experience both positive and negative consequences. Knowledge of technology can have a negative impact, such as getting false news, slander, bullying and anti-pancasila attitudes as a result of this.

Almost all of the service's operations have been conducted online. News that hasn't been verified can spread in a matter of seconds thanks to the internet's ability to instantly disseminate it via online mass media. It is true that every society has the right to share and receive knowledge in order to create a space where each person can speak their mind without restriction. However, freedom, which may or may not have a positive impact on society as a whole, necessitates consideration of social elements, particularly in light of the current corona virus outbreak.

As long as protracted news stories are circulated, it will take time and money to reduce the amount of real-world noise they cause if it isn't handled

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\(^3\) Lynda Walsh, Sins against science: the scientific media hoaxes of Poe, Twain, and others. (SUNY Press, 2006).

quickly. Those who participate in online discussions have the opportunity to shape public perceptions of social phenomena. Because of the way we generate meaning about our social assumptions, the noise on social media will undoubtedly have an impact on our social lives. Disagreements sparked on social media ultimately destroyed the idea of diversity. In order for the Ministry of Communication and Information to establish a suitable concept in anticipation of the controversy caused by this social media communication.

Social networking is a great way to communicate with others, but it's much better to do it face-to-face. Everyone will hear and see what you say if you communicate clearly and appropriately. As a result of these conditions, the government will have to come up with conceptions of national and social harmony. Indonesians are happy to provide information via the media because they believe that certain parties will respond more swiftly than others, both online and offline.

From the discussion above, several questions emerged that became the main topics of discussion in this study, such as what is the significant role of mass media on people's views, what is the role of social media on social distance and social change? then the positive and negative impacts of social distance and what are the good solutions in social change related to the issue of this corona virus outbreak?

**B. Method**

These findings are explained in detail by employing a qualitative descriptive research approach. One of the most important aspects of qualitative research is that it relies heavily on human perceptions and experiences. This study employs intrinsic case studies, a sort of qualitative approach. Research in this area employs a problem-solving approach to analyzing data.

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C. Result and Discussion

1. The Significant Role of Mass Media on Public Views

The primary role of the media is to inform the general audience about current events and emerging trends. As long as it satisfies and presents empirical facts, this purpose will be served. Online or digital social media is part of the mass media. If you're going to use social media, you're going to use it to educate people about the meaning and significance of information, to allow people to voice their opinions and to provide information. Law No. 11 of 2008 regulating Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE) regulates some aspects that, if not followed, could lead to problems because of their impossibility and reasonableness.

The purpose of using Information Technology and Electronic Transactions is to: educate the life of the nation as part of the world information society, develop trade and the national economy in order to improve people's welfare, increase the effectiveness and efficiency of public services, open up the widest possible opportunities for everyone to advance ideas, and capabilities in the field of using and utilizing Information Technology as optimally and responsibly as possible, and providing a sense of security, justice, and legal certainty for users and providers of Information Technology (Article 4 of the ITE Law).

Wright and Hinson argue that social media has power in user generated content (UGC) where content is generated by users, not by editors as in mass media institutions. UGC spread over the internet aims to share and facilitate

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conversations among users. Mahmood and Auter designed an online communication model called the CMC Interactivity Model. There are four important elements in computer media-based communication interactions, namely: first, the users who act as senders and receivers, or in other words, netizens act as communicants as well as communicators. Second, Medium (media) is a condition for the existence of media or channels to facilitate the interaction process between users. Third, the message in the form of messages that are exchanged between users through the media used. Fourth, communication settings, namely a flexible communication environment and time according to the wishes of participants, considering that online communication is real time.

There are three factors that Indonesian people are very easily influenced by various hoax content, namely, First, the public's interest in reading is still very low. Second, do not check the truth and authenticity of the news. This provides a change in various views of the Indonesian people towards the phenomenon that is currently being discussed by the public. Third, the Indonesian people are too quick to conclude an event that occurred. This is due to a lack of knowledge of cause and effect, when it occurs, so it can be concluded that there is a lack of intention to find out more clearly.

2. The Role of Communication Media on Social Distance and Social Change

S. Finn stated that a person's motives for using the media can be grouped into two categories, namely proactive and passive. Examples of proactive use of media are using certain social media to get entertainment or browsing using the internet to get information to help complete college assignments or so on.

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In other words, media users actively seek information from the media based on their wishes, needs, and motives.\(^1\)

Indirectly, the impact of social distance has an impact on social change. Of course, this is one of the things caused by the spread of news through social media in general conditions. Benkler and Cross argue that the sharing factor is another character of social media.\(^1\) This media not only produces content that is built from and consumed by its users but is also distributed and developed by its users.\(^1\) This shows that the audience is active in spreading the message content as well as developing it. The contents of the messages that are distributed are then commented on, also added with the latest data or facts. Therefore, this community confusion can be used by irresponsible parties to instill hatred, so that there is a chance for division and hostility to occur.\(^1\)

Soerjono Soekanto argues that the factors causing social change to come from the community, such as increasing or decreasing population, new discoveries, rebellion or revolution in society, causes originating from the physical environment around humans, wars with other countries.\(^1\)

Rogers, argued that an adequate theory of change should include key questions, such as What factors experienced the change? To what extent have these changes occurred? How is the speed of the change taking place? What conditions existed before and after the change occurred? What happened during that transition? What are the stimuli that drive the change? Through what mechanism did the change occur? What elements provide stability at a

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\(^{13}\) Marry Cross, *Bloggerati, Twitterati: How Blogs and Twitter are Transforming Popular Culture*. (Santa Barbara California: Praeger, 2011).


\(^{15}\) Soerjono Soekanto, *Sosiologi Suatu Pengantar*. (Jakarta: Raja Grafindo, 2002).

Available online at https://journal.unnes.ac.id/nju/index.php/jcs
certain point in the change? Can humans determine the direction of the change? According to Sokanto, the process of social changes that occur will be known because of the presence of several adequate characteristics such as:

1) No society is stagnant. Because every society experience changes that occur slowly or quickly.
2) Changes that occur in certain social institutions will be followed by changes in other social institutions.
3) Social changes usually result in temporary disorganization in adapting.
4) Changes that cannot be isolated in the material or spiritual realm. Because these fields have strong reciprocal links.
5) Typologically, social changes can be categorized as: a). social process: the circulation of various rewords, facilities and personnel in an exiting structure; b). segmentation the proliferation on structural units that do not diffequalitatively from exiting units; c). structure change: the emerge of qualitatively new complexes of roles and organization; d). change in groups, structure: the shifts in the composition of groups, and the level of canciosness of group, and the relations among the group in society.

The notion of social change was also put forward by Gillin and Gillin. These two experts say that social changes are a variation of accepted ways of life, either because of changes in geographical conditions, material culture, population composition, ideology or because of diffusion or new discoveries in society. In another sense, social change is the changes that occur in the structure and function of society.

Changes in structure, social systems, values, attitudes from the old style (village style) to a new style (city style). These are elements of social change,

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17 Soekanto, 2002.
both adopted individually and collectively in a social system. When the structure of society changes, the functions and roles, mindsets and patterns of people's attitudes change. Therefore, the role of mass media is very important in communicating.

In the theory of social change, according to Pitirim Sorokin, a Russian sociologist, all major civilizations are in an endless cycle of three cultural systems, which include ideational culture based on values and belief in supernatural elements, idealistic culture in which belief in elements of the supernatural and fact-based rationality combine to create an ideal society, and a culture of sensation in which sensation is the measure of reality and the purpose of life.

The things mentioned above related to social distance and social change are inseparable from communication, either directly or through intermediary media such as mass media (social media). Stanton said that there are at least five goals of human communication, namely influencing others, building or managing interpersonal relationships, finding different types of knowledge, helping others, playing or joking.  

Communication media are all means used to produce, reproduce, distribute, or disseminate and convey information. Currently the Corona virus outbreak is not only a national conversation but has become a world issue. The world’s great institutions not only help each other and cooperate in the economic, social, cultural and political fields to achieve the benefit of both parties. Currently, what is being discussed by every major world institution, even the world community, from government officials to ordinary people, are discussing with each other about the corona virus outbreak. No longer knowing educational and social status, everyone who has social media to communicate will be used to provide information and news obtained, whether the news is true or not. Currently, it is the role of social media that is considered the wisest considering the implementation of social distancing.

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Social distancing is one way to prevent the transmission of the Covid-19 corona virus in Indonesia. There has been so much news on social media that the Government has appealed to the public to reduce activities outside the home in order to suppress the spread of the COVID-19 corona virus in Indonesia. President Jokowi appealed those activities such as studying, working and praying should be done at home. Quarantine is one of the ways the government does to stop the spread of infectious diseases. Quarantine is generally carried out on people or groups who have no symptoms but are exposed to the disease. Quarantine keeps them away from other people, so they don’t infect anyone.

Currently, it is only communication via social media that is quite effective and efficient considering that during social distancing, it is better to continue to cooperate with the authorities. Everyone still has to follow directions from the ministry of health or other authorized agencies to stop the spread of infectious diseases. If there are things that are deemed necessary to be communicated regarding this corona virus outbreak, the government has provided several referral hospitals and an official website so that everyone can see for themselves the number of infected numbers every day. If the number continues to rise, it is hoped that people will not ignore the advice to continue to do activities at home and if the number decreases, it means that the number of people infected with the corona virus has decreased or recovered. Therefore, if in social life there are social changes due to social distance, it is hoped that with the communication media, every citizen will not panic and provide hoax news, so that it can harm themselves and others. Because providing news that is not true and causes harm to others is already regulated in the laws of the Republic of Indonesia.

As this COVID-19 coronavirus spreads, it can already be seen that there may be fear and panic. Fear is normal and educating yourself is a great way to compensate for that anxiety. Try to keep getting information from trusted sources about the corona virus around the community.
3. Positive and Negative Impacts of Social Distance

Talking about the positive and negative impacts of social distance, it is psychologically confirmed that there is fear and concern in society. It can be seen from social media, both online and offline, that there are so many impacts caused by social distancing.

Talking about the positive effects, the government wants people to stay inside and not do things outside the house that could make them interact with a lot of people. This way, people can be more careful about protecting and maintaining their health. Another good thing about social isolation is that President Joko Widodo wants to stop installment payments and work with financial service authorities. Is it possible that this is true? News from well-known websites like kompas.com, CNN and CNBC have talked about this a lot. If this is true, then the government has come up with a way to help its people not only stay healthy, but also to cut down on the burden and costs of living that people have to deal with, which is a good thing for the community as a whole.

Until now, the corona virus outbreak has already been called an Extraordinary Event (KLB), because it has caused a lot of people to get sick or die in a certain area over time. Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia No. 949/MENKES/SK/VII/2004 sets the rules for how outbreaks should be treated, and they do this by setting out the rules. Meanwhile, the bad effects have been found to outweigh the good effects. When you think about life in general, you can feel how hard it is to find standard health masks that should be used in certain situations. The more people need hand sanitizer, it is hard to find, and when you do find it, the price is very high. The cost of everyday goods has gone up because it is hard to find raw materials, transportation costs have gone up, and the number of people who don’t leave their homes is making it hard for traders to make money. In addition, the negative effect also has an effect on the whole economy. The government, as the party that made the social distancing regulation, is going to feel the effects of it. It’s important for people to touch each other with other people, even with their own families.
As far as money is concerned, of course, people aren’t so worried because social distance can cut down on daily expenses and daily needs, because all activities are done at home. However, from a social point of view, the rise of hoax news on social media is one of the effects of social distance on people. In the beginning, the government tried to keep people calm by giving them information through the media. Because of that, the world media has put a lot of pressure on the government and the public to give them as much information as possible about the corona virus so that the public can be educated and work with the government to lessen the risk of getting the virus.

These positive and negative effects are given back to the community so that they can be better at using social media to communicate. With social media, the public can find out what facilities and infrastructure the government has made ready to help them get around. In the same way, the government asks the public through social media to be even more careful when responding to the corona virus outbreak. For example, they might remind each other to keep a social distance and keep an eye on the environment around them if there are still people who do things outside or inside their homes that make a lot of people come together. Another negative effect of social distance is that it makes it easier for people who misuse or don’t know how to use social media to get in trouble. This is because of the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2008 on Information and Electronic Transactions (ITE Law) in the State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia. This is the number 58 in the year 2008.

This is about the criminal provisions of the ITE Law, which are explained in Articles 45-52. If someone intentionally and without permission distributes or transmits or makes available Electronic Information and/or Electronic Documents that have offensive content, they could be punished with up to six years in prison and/or a fine of up to Rp. 1,000,000 (or both) (one billion rupiah). If you know what you’re doing when you spread false and misleading news that causes people to lose money in Electronic Transactions, you could get up to six years in prison and a fine of up to Rp. 1,000,000,000.00, or both (one billion rupiah).
The ITE Law is to regulate the use of information technology broadly and directed towards the creation of an electronic society that always applies morals and ethics in all aspects of its life. Utilization of information technology, especially the management of information and electronic transactions, has an important role in increasing public awareness when the corona virus outbreak is increasing.

4. A Good Solution in Social Communication Regarding the Issue of the Corona Virus Outbreak

It is undeniable that due to the corona virus outbreak, many people are worried about interacting with each other, even with their own family members. Considering that activities outside the home are very worrying, there is currently so much education being carried out by the government and public figures who deliberately create educational content on how to respond to the corona virus outbreak calmly and wisely, so as not to cause excessive panic.

By looking at the negative impact of media understanding, resulting in an increase in hate messages on social media, the government seems to need to disseminate information to citizens and especially to millennial youth who are the most active in using social media. Through the diversity or citizenship approach (citizenship education) and digital citizenship (digital citizenship) it focuses on efforts to prepare information literate individuals and responsible citizens, through the study of rights, freedoms and responsibilities. This effort has been widely used in communities prone to violent conflict.19

There are three important approaches needed to anticipate the spread of hoax news in the community, namely institutional approaches, technology, and literacy. The literacy approach is carried out with the anti-hoax news movement and outreach to the community from schools to the general public, which is enhanced and encouraged, not only by the government but also by all levels of society including other non-governmental institutions. Every citizen must be able to filter the information received especially for those who like to provide

news and information through social media, such as have critical power in interpreting and receiving messages. Before providing information, make sure the truth and accuracy of the news, be able to analyze, and most importantly be able to construct a positive message and distribute it to other parties.

Communication media plays a very important role in people's lives. The process of sending information in this modern era is very sophisticated. Telecommunications technology is most sought after to convey or transmit information or news because telecommunications technology is growing, faster, more precise, accurate, easy, cheap, effective and efficient. Sharing information between Continents and Countries in any part of the world is getting easier. Therefore, to reduce hoax news in communicating, it is necessary to know how to communicate properly and correctly. This needs to be known in order to reduce the risk of being sanctioned due to being active in the mass media and social media, so that they do not pay attention to the truth. This will continue to be the government's concern in order to protect the Indonesian state from divisions and wars between citizens.

Giving the definition of Electronic Information contained in Article 1 sub 1, namely as one or a set of electronic data, but not limited to writing, sound, pictures, maps, designs, photos, electronic data interchange (EDI), email (electronic mail), telegram, telex, telecopy or the like, processed letters, signs, numbers, access codes, symbols, or perforations that have meaning or can be understood by people who are able to understand them. Furthermore, Article 1 sub 3 confirms the definition of information technology in Indonesia as a technique for collecting, preparing, storing, processing, announcing, analyzing, and disseminating information.\(^{20}\)

This ITE Law applies to everyone who carries out legal actions as regulated in this law, both within the jurisdiction of Indonesia and outside the jurisdiction of Indonesia, which has legal consequences within the jurisdiction of Indonesia and/or outside the jurisdiction of Indonesia and detrimental to the interests of Indonesia (Article 2 of the ITE Law).

D. Conclusion

The mass media can be used as a communication method to share information between individuals. This day and age, there are numerous advantages to using social media in our everyday lives. While this corona virus outbreak is taking place, we are confined to communicating with each other via the media. Media also makes it possible for people on opposite sides of the globe to communicate with each other without regard to physical distance or time. This is called "global village" There are, however, some drawbacks that cannot be avoided because of the media’s presence in society. This can be seen in Indonesia, where people are often on edge, even to the point of fighting between brothers, due of the distribution of false information about a given topic by irresponsible individuals. It’s easier than ever for a person to open an account on social media and then post anything, making the propagation of hoax news even readily prone to media as the primary instrument.

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Authors state there is no conflict of interest in this research and or publication of his work.

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H. References


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