COVID-19: Policy of the Chinese Government

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Abstract: COVID-19 is a deadly pandemic and is a humanitarian emergency that quickly spreads throughout China and various countries. The spread of this virus urges the Chinese government to respond by implementing COVID-19 control measures that are applied based on the results of identification. The rapid spread and transmission of the virus in China and throughout the world raises the question of how the Chinese government responds to COVID-19 control. The main purpose is to control the spread and transmission of the virus, as well as being a reference material for various countries in the world to fight COVID-19. This research method uses secondary data, such as international journals, Chinese government websites, WHO, international media, and etc. The data collected was analyzed descriptively based on data and facts in the field. The research results showed that control measures such as isolation and quarantine, social distancing and community containment have been successfully implemented. There is a decrease in the number of cases and a decrease in the level of emergencies, the Chinese government actively provides assistance to countries around the world to fight COVID-19.

Keywords: COVID-19, coronavirus, government, policy

Introduction

Wuhan, China was the first place where COVID-19 pneumonia was reported in December 2019 and then the outbreak spread in Hubei Province and to several countries (Chen, Yang, Yang, Wang, & Bärnighausen, 2020; Duan & Zhu, 2020; Gilbert et al., 2020; Read, Bridgen, Cummings, Ho, & Jewell, 2020; C. Wang, Horby, Hayden, & Gao, 2020; Wilder-Smith & Freedman, 2020; Wu & McGoogan, 2020; Zhang, Tang, Fang, & Sun, 2020; Zhao et al., 2020; Zhu et al., 2020), especially bordering countries, such as Vietnam, Russia, Nepal (Bastola et al., 2020). There is a global concern caused by an increasing number of cases (Hui et al., 2020; C. Wang et al., 2020).

Human mobility thought to be central to the spread of COVID-19 in China (Kraemer et al., 2020). Wuhan City has a population of over 11 million and is the most populous city in China (Sohrabi et al., 2020; Tan et al., 2020), connected with other cities facilitated by high-speed trains and commercial flights (Tan et al., 2020), and also internationally connected (Bogoch et al., 2020). That made the local government responds and acts quickly to expect the spread of the virus. Finally, on January 23, 2020, the city of Wuhan was on lockdown (Du et al., 2020). The lockdown is a policy that decided in response to the Chinese Government in suppressing the spread of the virus so it does not spread.

Subsequent response by the government was to identify things that might spread and transmission of the virus, so that on February 2, 2020, the government restricted transportation in various regions in China to reduce the spread of the coronavirus epidemic (Xinhua, 2020a). The Chinese Government also took several preventive measures by taking steps and urging the entire community to stay home, wear face masks, avoid contact, wash hands, the quarantine on time, carry out isolation, dismiss students, improve treatment strategies, limit restrictions on things that might spread the virus such as the land, sea, air transportation, and others.

Based on this, this paper is very important and urgent to do because this virus has become a pandemic, deadly, and caused a humanitarian emergency so that the Chinese Government's response needs to know so it can be adopted by various countries that are still experiencing difficulties against COVID-19. The spread of cases in China is quick and spread throughout the world which causes an explanation of COVID-19 and the effectiveness of government intervention limited, so it is important to provide scientific information to understand the virus and its handling (Fang, Nie, & Penny, 2020). Need further research to understand the cause of COVID-19 as an effort to prevent future coronavirus outbreaks (Heymann & Shindo, 2020).

This research contributes to controlling COVID-19 in various countries, so it is very important to do so. Besides, this research can provide knowledge and can be used as recommendations for all countries to fight infectious viruses. Various countries have carried out control, but many haves failed and this differs from what is done by the Chinese government, which until now is considered the most successful country in controlling COVID-19. For this reason, this research is very important to do to analyze the Chinese government's policy in controlled COVID-19.

Method

This paper was designed by descriptively using qualitative methods and approaches. This paper uses secondary data from several previous studies, data from The State Council of the People's Republic of China, AlibabaCloud, CGTN, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention of China, the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China, WHO, and various agency websites the Chinese government, and the official media during the January-March 2020 period. The data collected is analysis descriptively qualitatively by combining various data and facts that interconnected to strengthen the research results.

Results and Discussion

The Chinese government first took response measures in controlling COVID-19 are active cases finding begins in Wuhan City; Wuhan Health Commission Alerts National Health Commission and China CDC, and WHO is notifed; Huanan Seafood Market Closed; 2019-nCoV identified; 2019-nCoV sequences first shared; 2019-nCoV test kits first available; COVID-19 a Class B notifiable disease; Wuhan City Shut Down; and Another 15 cities shut down (Wu & McGoogan, 2020). The Chinese government responded with several stages of COVID-19 control that had not previously carried out on a large scale, including isolation and quarantine, social distancing, and community containment (Hopman, Allegranzi, & Mehtar, 2020; Wilder-Smith & Freedman, 2020). Control measures include the integration of resources from various systems, including business, society, technology, education, and transportation (Liu, Yue, & Tchounwou, 2020).

These steps are able to control the spread of COVID-19, although it is debated because violates privacy and human rights (Mozur, Zhong, & Krolik, 2020). Human rights are indeed preferred, but the community containment policy is also an effort to fight for human rights because if the government does not act indirectly violates human rights by allowing people to become infected and die without taking protective measures. This relates to the government's liability to fight for the right to a life of its people. Stopping all public activities, including business carried out by the Chinese Government, might eliminate billions of dollars, but controlling measures are wise decisions and right actionsr (Hellewell et al., 2020).

Community containment is a risk strategy that carries out based on stages, and actions during the response phase are also different (Fisher & Wilder-Smith, 2020). This strategy is risky, because many other countries do not effectively implement it, but the Chinese government implements it with discipline supported by its people. Integrated community detention efforts can reduce the increasing number of cases (Sohrabi et al., 2020). They can control the main spread in China, but subsequently, the growth of the virus occurs throughout the world (Fisher & Wilder-Smith, 2020). The government's action in suppressing the meeting of many people was very important in deciding the spread of the virus (Anderson, Heesterbeek, Klinkenberg, & Hollingsworth, 2020). The results showed that the Chinese government taught that COVID-19 could limited by implementing strategies and responses earlier (Hopman et al., 2020). The development of COVID-19 cases in China, where the data shows remarkable developments. During March 2020, a significant decrease in the number of cases occurs (See Figure 1).
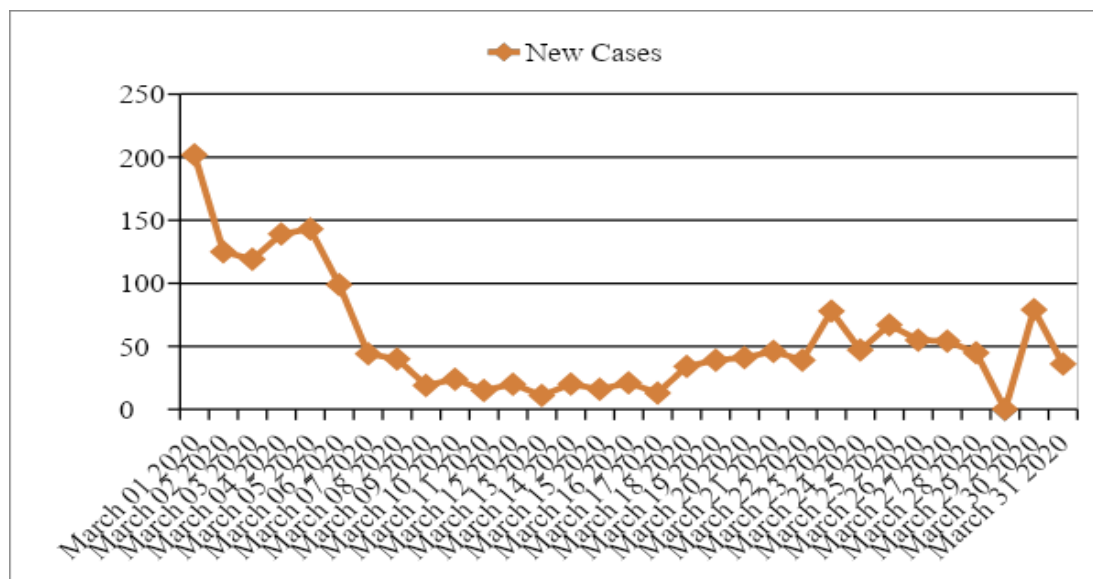
Source: Elaborated by the authors (worldometers, 2020).

Figure 1. Growth of New Cases in China

The measure of community detention in China was successful because it could reduce new cases by over 90% (Remuzzi & Remuzzi, 2020), and this did not happen in other countries (misalkan Italia dan Iran) (The Economist, 2020). The Chinese government quickly and intensively has limited the spread of COVID-19 outside Hubei with community containment and mitigation (Dalton, Corbett, & Katelaris, 2020). Through the community containment strategy, the Chinese government implements mitigation, and this is one supporter of the success of the strategy implemented in suppressing the spread they risk this strategy transmission of COVID-19.

According to Libyan economic researcher Kamal Al-Mansoori that China's success against the virus has helped speed up recovery and ensure the stability of the world economy, and when they reduce infection rates to zero, they carry out a programmed plan to open large factories and move between cities (Xinhua, 2020b). Success showed by implementing effective control measures and receiving community support. Public health can achieve by collective action from the community (Cetron & Landwirth, 2005). This success is also because since the beginning the Chinese government has implemented the same steps when controlling SARS in 2003 because the measures were also successful (Goh et al., 2006), so it can say that the success of COVID-19 control got from previous experience. The success of the measures implemented need to be adopted by other countries. Non-pharmaceutical control measures are very important as part of COVID-19 management, because until now there is no vaccine or anti-coronavirus (Heymann & Shindo, 2020), so it needs a fast and accurate response.

The Chinese government issued the largest quarantine policy in history (Wilder-Smith & Freedman, 2020). Can be confirming mobility almost stops in the Chinese community through implementing large-scale social distance (Fisher & Wilder-Smith, 2020). Health interventions in China track intensive contacts and cases, isolate sick patients, social distance, and kill public life in many cities and all provinces outside Hubei (Salzberger, Glück, & Ehrenstein, 2020). Infectious disease control or outbreaks using case isolation and contact tracing to control for COVID-19 disease (Hellewell et al., 2020). Isolation will be successful in preventing transmission of the virus by detecting early cases before transmission occurs (Cheng et al., 2004).

Patients infected with COVID-19 in China will soon isolated in newly built hospitals and hospitals appointed to suppress the number of cases, all activities canceled and quarantine starts at home (Hopman et al., 2020). Quarantine at home by social distancing steps. Social distancing policies can be useful in deciding the spread of epidemics, but there are also more restrictive policies usually carried out together such as isolation and quarantine (Chen et al., 2020). Social distancing is necessary when the spread of the virus increases (Anderson et al., 2020). The results of social distancing policies and public information through an educational campaign make Chinese citizens self-aware and protect themselves such as staying at home, limiting social contact, and wearing face masks when in public places (Chen et al., 2020).

Effective quarantine and social distancing depend on the authority of health institutions and political leaders (Lewnard & Lo, 2020). Health institutions act according to their main tasks, while political leaders also act according to their capacities. COVID-19 really needs to explain and why everyone should stay at home (Narzisi, 2020). It is important for governments to use strategies in communicating with the public to provide information and the best ways to avoid viruses (Anderson et al., 2020). The Chinese government increases awareness of physical and mental health and its impact during implementing these control measures, the government also needs to provide effective guidelines for online learning that meet educational requirements but do not burden students (G. Wang, Zhang, Zhao, Zhang, & Jiang, 2020). Online learning with zoom is successfully applied even a model developed by schools and universities for the future, and even that many businesses and organizations in large meetings applied it during the outbreak (Hussain, 2020).

Sychological counseling services for patients, their family members, and others exposed to COVID-19 provided online by medical institutions and universities throughout China (Duan & Zhu, 2020). In addition, the Chinese Government made efforts to trace contacts, early detection, medical treatment, and promote hand washing, surface disinfection, and use of protective masks through social and media advertising (Chen et al., 2020). Communication by the government to the public can increase awareness and behavior of individuals in controlling the virus. Individual behavior can control the spread of COVID-19 (Anderson et al., 2020). The Chinese government's response in controlling COVID-19 provides important lessons through clear and ongoing communication to the public about daily updates of COVID-19 cases, clinical care outcomes, plans and guidelines and implementation procedures to followed, increased knowledge and medical protective equipment for COVID- 19 transmission to health workers at the beginning of the outbreak (Hussain, 2020).

Implementation of COVID-19 control measures in China can reduce the growth of the virus to negative and this proves that the spread of the virus can be mitigated (Kraemer et al., 2020). Control steps supported by big data and communication technology (Liu et al., 2020). WeChat and AliPay are the most widely used mobile applications in China because they provide a Health Code system, if there are residents who leave the house will register and given a QR color code with a green, yellow or red color display to show their health status, then residents will asked QR codes when entering or leaving public places visited so that outward routes of confirmed cases tracked and close contact with them also identified (Liu et al., 2020).

Community containment is very useful in encouraging the Chinese government to mitigate, even though it is considered a step that violates human rights and is not workable. Widespread distribution in China makes community containment a viable step (MacIntyre, 2020). The overall spread of COVID-19 in China is called for by extreme measures, where these steps are successful (Fisher & Wilder-Smith, 2020). Entering March, the peak of the epidemic has passed and is preparing steps for implementing a new transportation system (Liu et al., 2020). WHO urges countries in the world to adopt China's steps in rigorous testing and contact tracking strategies to curb the spread of the coronavirus (BBC News Indonesia, 2020). China's success and experience against COVID-19 is precious information because the world needs it to reduce human and economic losses (Xinhua, 2020b). Ahu Ozyurt, a well-known Turkish journalist stated that countries affected by COVID-19 must learn from China, with discipline against viruses and possessing the ability of new ideas (Xinhua, 2020c).

The findings of this study show that the Chinese government has controlled COVID-19 by implementing effective public communication. Results show that apart from the several steps applied, such as isolation, quarantine, social distancing, and community containment. The Chinese government also implements effective public communication. This aims to influence community participation such as awareness, discipline, and community support against the virus. The Chinese government's public communication focused on national health centers and carries out surveillance of public information circulating in the community so that the information received is uniform and affects increased public participation and can help the government in fighting the virus.

Conclusion

Based on the results of discussions related to several steps (isolation and quarantine, social distancing, and community containment) implemented by the Chinese government in controlling COVID-19, the paper findings show that the virus can control with experience and communication strategies carried out by the government. The experience can provide knowledge for individuals and governments to carry out mitigation actions and experience can also generate awareness and discipline of the risk of infectious viruses and support for government actions and this is can be see from the government's response and the behavior of the Chinese people when facing COVID-19. As a result, people have awareness and discipline about the risk of viruses and follow the government's call to stay at home, avoid distance and social contact, postpone major activities, wash hands, and use masks when leaving the

house, and support every step adopted by the government. While the communication strategy is an important point that results in positive behavior such as awareness, discipline, and community support for government steps. Communication is not only from the government but through media such as social media but remains under the supervision of the government.

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