

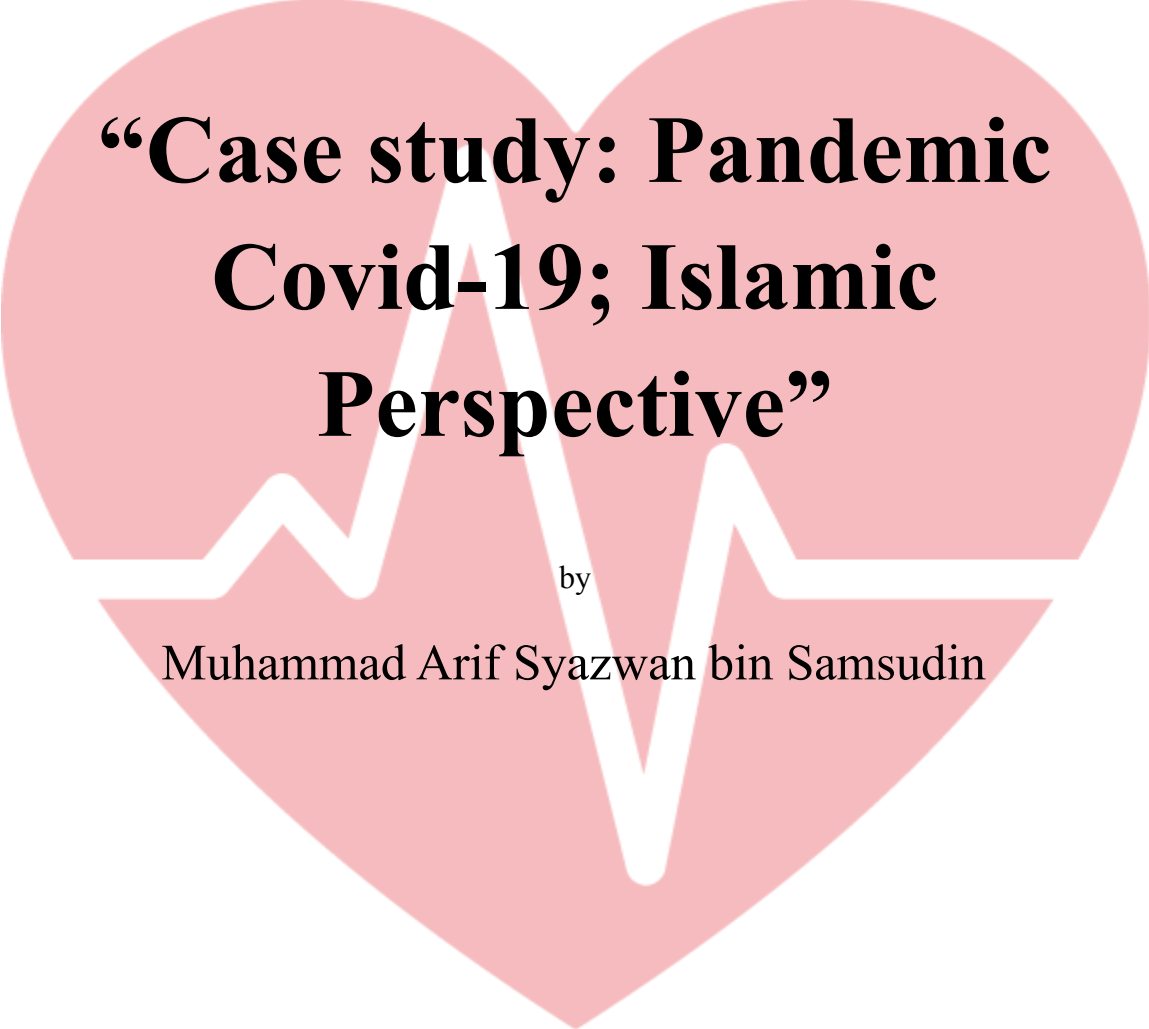
Title : Case study: Pandemic Covid-19; Islamic Perspective

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**“Case study: Pandemic
Covid-19; Islamic
Perspective”**

by

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Starting from december 2019, Malaysia was affected with a pandemic disease that made the world get messy. It is called CoronaVirus 2019 (Covid-19). ¹COVID-19 is an ongoing worldwide pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The virus was confirmed to have reached Malaysia in January 2020, when it was detected on travellers from China arriving via Singapore on 25 January, following the outbreak of COVID-19 in Hubei, China. This pandemic gives a lot of impacts to social, government, and economics.

Coronavirus is a pandemic disease that is really dangerous and needs to be careful and aware of it to prevent it from being infected. As we can see day by day, there are a lot of cases that people get infected with this disease which are around ²60 millions above. From the huge numbers, there are 1 million people who cannot be cured and died from this disease. In Malaysia, there are quite high numbers of cases. The local news showed that the statistics about the cases in Malaysia slowed down in numbers from March to September but unluckily the number suddenly rose up drastically starting from October until December, there are frequently above 500 cases. The most cases that had been counted until 5th December 2020 are still in Sabah which are 30 288 cases followed by Selangor which are 16 075 cases. Until then, the number of deaths reached 380 victims. Therefore, Movement Control Order (MCO) is starting to be implemented in several states in Malaysia regarding preventing cases from getting higher.

¹ Calvin Cheng (26 March 2020). Covid-19 in Malaysia. Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

² American Library Association (2020). Statistics about the Covid-19 Cases. WorldOMeter retrieved by: https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/?utm_campaign=homeAdvegas1?

The cases are increasing because of many factors such as not applying standard operation procedure (SOP), ignoring to take care of cleanliness, and stubbornness of people to follow the instruction that had been given by our leader. From this pandemic Covid-19, is it giving a lot of negative effects to others? Is this disease a warning from Allah? What should muslims or other people do? Are there any benefits or positive sides that we can take as iktibar?

Thus, the case study is focusing on the effects from this pandemic Covid-19 in order to make sure people always keep their awareness about it. The purpose of this case study is also to give people clearer guidance about the steps or how to cope with this current pandemic issue. From these steps, it will include the solution according to Islamic perspectives for example on how Rasulullah s.a.w guided muslims when facing the dangerous disease. Moreover, the goal of this research paper also lists all the wisdom or hikmah with descriptions that we can get from the issue that can make people realise that there is no such thing that happens as to troublesome ummah. There must be a valid reason and hikmah why Allah tests all humans with this disease.

2.0 OBJECTIVE

- To analyse the effects from the pandemic Covid-19 issue
- To list the guidelines and steps that help people to cope with the pandemic Covid-19 included with solutions preferred by Islamic Perspective
- To create awareness among muslims or any people about the wisdom (positives sides) of Covid-19

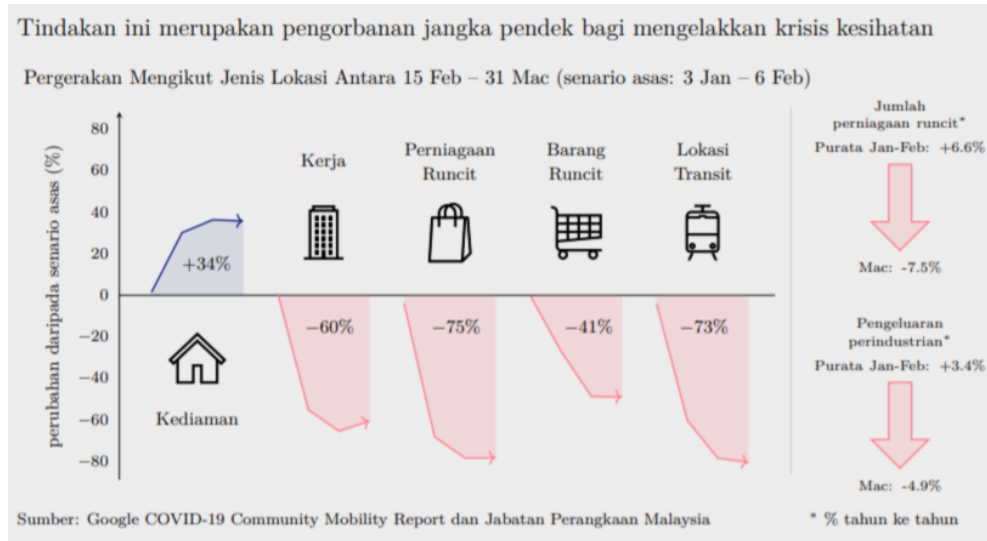
3.0 EFFECT OF COVID-19

As we know, Covid-19 is a pandemic disease that is really dangerous and easily infected by one to another people. Therefore, people must prevent having any contact or see each other randomly because we don't know if some of those people were infected so this is a precaution and a way to protect our life from harmness. From that, people must sacrifice to separate from each other for a while. Despite that, there are a lot of ramifications from pandemic Covid-19 either in politics or economics.

3.1 The economic downturn

Basically, based on observations and study from Prof.. Datuk ChM Dr. Taufiq Yap Yun Hin, he stated that pandemic Covid-19 gave impacts to many things especially in economics. ³Domestic business ecosystems such as the food and beverage industry, the construction and manufacturing industry, the tourism industry, as well as the agriculture, construction and services industries were down in collapse and automatically this in turn resulted in many job losses. There are many unemployed victims affected from dismissal due to economic collapse. This is because employers cannot go to work as they need to follow the instructions to stay at home and not go anywhere. Besides that, hawkers or stallers need to stop their operation and this gives a lot of impacts to them. They just get their money through the sales and many of them suffered to spend their life as they did not have enough money to buy things. Despite any government officials or any jobs that have high salaries, the hawkers, especially those that lived in poverty, really suffered during the pandemic Covid-19 infection period because they were prohibited to sell their things to earn money to make a living with the family.

³ Prof. Datuk ChM Dr. Taufiq Yap Yun Hin (18 May 2020), Kuala Lumpur. Kesan Covid-19 kepada manusia dan alam. Retrieved by <https://www.bernama.com/bm/tintaminda/news.php?id=1842582>



⁴Statistic of Community Mobility Report, 2020

From the statistics, it was clearly a downfall of numbers in retail business and public transport as we need to take precautions during the pandemic Covid-19 happened in Malaysia.

3.2 Social and education activities

Besides the disease gives a big fallout to economics, it also affects social activities. As I mentioned before, to prevent pandemic disease Covid-19 happens, we need to separate from others. Any social gatherings need to be avoided and the most hurtful thing is that we have to do ibadah in our home. Any states that are in MCO are restricting muslims from going to do ibadah at masjid or surau. Jumaat prayer is also included to avoid any circumstances happening. Probably many of muslims are eager and miss praying as jemaah in masjid but unfortunately the pandemic Covid-19 separates them from doing so. Other social gatherings like sports, events, and ceremonies are also restricted and this restrains the relationships between ummah and gives a lot of hardship to them such as they need to do certain things with SOP as guidelines and may be

⁴ Bank Negara Malaysia (2020) Kuala Lumpur. Perkembangan Ekonomi dan Kewangan Malaysia pada Suku Pertama 2020 retrieved by https://www.bnm.gov.my/index.php?ch=bm_publication&pg=bm_qb&ac=192&lang=bm&year=2020

quite a different norm than usual. Students also need to do online class instead of face to face class because of school closure. Hence, it might affect students, lecturers and teachers to try new methods of learning and teaching. Furthermore, religious talks and knowledge sharing in the mosque were also canceled due to Covid-19. It also gives an effect to educational programmes and people must bare with it.

3.3 Politics

When the pandemic happens, of course it also affects politics. Pandemic Covid-19 is a worldwide issue so all political matters must be done intelligently. It is quite difficult for politicians, especially leaders, to think about how they must handle this issue. Not just to handle, but also to make sure their jobs as politicians also need to be done. Moreover, it is problematic for politicians to do political affairs that involve countries like diplomatic relations. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted international relations and affected the political systems of multiple countries, causing suspensions of legislative activities, isolation or deaths of multiple politicians and reschedulings of elections due to fears of spreading the virus.

4.0 HOW TO COPE THE ISSUE IN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

Every type of problem, there must be a way or methods to solve the problems. It is about good management in facing the crisis. There are many ways that we need to go through that can help us to face this enormous issue. There are no problems or tests that can burden the ummah, it must be a solution because we as khalifah on the earth are capable of doing everything that Allah commands us to do.

Surah al Baqarah ayat 286:

لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا ۗ

4.1 Obey the instructions from government or leader

We know that the one who is always working to find solutions to face the crisis is the leader of the country. Everyday, he or she cooperates with other agencies to seek a way to handle the issue gently. As for Malaysia, the one who takes responsibility is our Prime Minister, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin. He always teams up with the Minister of Health Malaysia to make sure that all the action is carried out according to the situation and advice from the more knowledgeable in this regard. Hence, citizens are unnecessary to judge or blame the leaders if the instructions or commands from the leader are unsatisfactory. It was stated in Quran that we need to obey the leader if he or she is capable to do the amanah perfectly and not zalim to the people.

يَأْيُهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولَى الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ (surah An Nisa verse 59)

⁵Rasulullah s.a.w also gave the guidelines when the contagious disease happened and it is the same as our leader to do so such as the one who sick cannot have any contact with others and we are prohibited to go anyplace that have those disease or travel if your country have the contagious disease.

لَا يُورَدَنَّ مُمْرِضٌ عَلَى مُصِحٍّ

(Hadis riwayat Imam Bukhari dan Imam Muslim).

إِذَا سَمِعْتُمْ بِهِ بَارِضٍ فَلَا تَقْدُمُوا عَلَيْهِ وَإِذَا وَقَعَ بِأَرْضٍ وَأَنْتُمْ بِهَا فَلَا تَخْرُجُوا فِرَارًا مِنْهُ

(Hadis riwayat Imam Muslim)

⁶Thus, in a situation where the country is facing the challenge of Covid-19, it is appropriate for all communities to obey the instructions from the leader because the instructions come from the leaders for the good of all. A country will be destroyed when members or members fail to fulfill

⁵ DR Mohamed Fatris Bin Bakaram, (2020), Singapore. Fatwa berkaitan pencegahan covid-19 retrieved by <https://www.muis.gov.sg/officeofthemufti/Fatwa/Fatwa-Covid-19-Malay>

⁶ Norhayati Abdul Wahab, (2 April 2020), Pulau Pinang. Taat kepada pemimpin, sifat muslim sejati. Retrieved by <https://ismapenang.org/v1/2020/04/taat-kepada-pemimpin-sifat-muslim-sejati/>

the responsibility of expressing allegiance to the head, leaders and country. Disobedience to these leadership directives will invite unwanted reinforcements and risks.

4.2 Teamwork and sadaqah

All the difficult matters that need to be handled surely can be eased if we have cooperation between people, agencies, NGO, Government etc. Islam also urge the ummah to have a teamwork in facing the difficulties and crisis because with teamwork loosen the burden from individual.

Surah al Maidah verse 2:

وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ ۖ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ

A crisis management team is required to be formed to face any crisis of any kind and it is called the work team, the investigation committee, the expert group, the problem-solving committee or the special committee, and in the political and military field it is called the Special Operations Forces or the Frontliners. The goal of the team is to work to reduce negative effects, It is to advance planning and develop future scenarios to predict any crisis that could arise through the presence of indications of its occurrence.

During the pandemic Covid-19, we can see a lot of agencies, local society and Non-Governmental Organisation(NGO) make their way to help those who barely survive for a living from the economic crisis during the pandemic. These agencies or individuals start to sacrifice their money for sadaqah to help them such as to serve the goods like food and daily basis to help the poor. The Government also gives assistance to citizens like financial assistance based on their life status. ⁷For example, all university students get financial assistance based on

⁷ Ministry of Higher Education (3 December 2020), Putrajaya, Bantuan Kepada Pelajar IPT Semasa Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan, retrieved by <https://www.mohe.gov.my/en/media-mohe/infographic/1335-covid-19-infografik-bantuan-kepada-pelajar-ip-t-semasa-perintah-kawalan-pergerakan>

their parents salary during Movement Control Order (PKP) for surviving their living when studying and living on campus during that time. It shows that sadaqah gives a lot of goodness towards others.

“A charity is due for every joint in each person on every day the sun comes up: to act justly between two people is a charity; to help a man with his mount, lifting him onto it or hoisting up his belongings onto it, is a charity; a good word is a charity; and removing a harmful thing from the road is a charity.” (Al-Bukhari, Muslim)

4.3 Patience and optimist

It is essential for us to be patient in all situations. When the pandemic Covid-19 happens in Malaysia, we can see unnecessary things like panic buying by citizens after they heard about the implementations of Movement Control Order (PKP) all over the country. This is clearly shown that it is not the nature of a patient person. When we hear the musibah, all we have to do is calm down and not easily panic because this thing slowly can be handled with many parties. We need to istighfar and strengthen the iman so we never do any silly things that are out of our mind. Then, when we one to face an issue like pandemic Covid-19, we also need to take positive action in this situation and be optimistic. Islam is a religion of optimism and hope so we need to belief of Allah and his Taqdir. Optimism needs to blend firmness and certainty, confidence and good belief in Allah.

Surah Yusuf verse 87:

يَا بَنِيَّ اذْهَبُوا فَتَحَسَّسُوا مِنْ يُوْسُفَ وَ اَخِيهِ وَلَا تَيْئَسُوا مِنْ رَوْحِ اللّٰهِ اِنَّهٗ لَا يَيْئَسُ مِنْ رَوْحِ اللّٰهِ اِلَّا الْقَوْمُ الْكٰفِرُوْنَ (٨٧)

A positive attitude can lead to a positive achievement. To keep believing and stay husnudzon to Allah can reach positive results even in the most difficult situations, crises and challenges in syaa Allah.

5.0 WISDOM FROM THE MUSIBAH

As stated in the way to cope with the issue that all the parties need to be patient and optimist, actually there are wisdoms or hikmah behind the issue. I know when we do not look with our heart into it, we cannot find positive things. However, there are a lot of benefits that we can get from it if we keep trust in Allah and his taqdir. Surah al-Ankabut verse 58.

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَنُبَوِّئَنَّهُمْ مِنَ الْجَنَّةِ غُرَفًا تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا نِعَمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ

5.1 Unity of Ummah

During the timeline of self quarantine by the citizens, we can see that all people were performing a smashing teamwork. Everyone always takes care of each other and gives advice to stay calm and stay safe. Media also does its best to make advertisements, catalogs, and campaigns to create awareness among citizens about Covid-19. It was like everyone always kept faith and patience toward this issue then they also reminded each of them regarding this issue. Surah al-asr verse 3:

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ

Despite the citizens cooperating, like always giving reminders to each other, sharing the daily basis etc, the leaders and other frontliner also keep their best to protect the country. We can see the harmony between them in handling this kind of crisis extraordinarily. Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and other ministers give their best to help other frontliners like doctors, soldiers, police etc for easing the burden. Hence, it is crystal clear that this crisis brings the unity of ummah.

“None of you will have faith until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.”

[al-Bukhari]

5.2 Family relationships become closer

Movement Control Order (PKP) is a command that has been given by the government to stay at home and not go anywhere without valid reasons. From this case, we can observe that family members grab their chance to have bonding with each other even just in the house. Despite being the one who is closer with them, they also have free time to communicate with the one who is far away from them through social media. Parents also have a precious time with their childrens. ⁸According to Dr Azuraida Shahadan, she claimed that PKP is an initiative to help educate children about the Covid-19 situation that occurs especially in terms of hygiene and personal safety. Azuraida said, with the presence of PKP, parents will have time to talk and tell their children about the current situation. Parents also can consult with their children regarding their education, current conditions, about their problems, etc. Hence, PKP also opens up a chance for married couples to tighten their relationship.

From Abu Hurairah RA, from the Prophet SAW, he said: "Learn the genealogy of your lineage with which you can continue your family relationship, then indeed connect friendship (will give birth) a love in the family and (cause) a lot of wealth and (cause) the end of death someone. (Hadith narrated by At-Tirmizi)

⁸ Muhamaad Razis Ismail (23 March 2020), Kuala Lumpur. Masa eratkan hubungan kekeluargaan. Retrieved by <https://www.hmetro.com.my/WM/2020/03/557406/masa-eratkan-hubungan-keluarga>

6.0 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, by having a deep understanding regarding the issue of Covid-19, people will have a clearer understanding of the effect from this disease, how we can manage to survive in this crisis and what is hidden from this issue. Actually, there are many people who do not realise about this issue and they just keep saying something bad and blaming the taqdir. They keep blaming that this pandemic Covid-19 leads to negative effects in many things. However, there are things that we can manage and guidelines for us to keep our patience and faith. Many suggestions and steps that are implemented for coping with the crisis and alhamdulillah for now are all perfectly done by responsible parties. Muslims also take their chance to do charity like giving food and daily basis to the one who needs to survive for daily living because this crisis makes people lose their jobs.

From here we also understand about the hikmah regarding this issue. Despite many bad things happening when this crisis attacked around the globe, there was also a 'light' from this. For example, societies are getting closer and unite to keep all members around to stay safe from disease. This also creates an opportunity for family members to increase their love between each other as they have a lot of time to spend together. Thus, every crisis, every hardship can be vanished when we always find ikhtiar and keep in trust in Allah. Allah is the best planner so maybe it will be more than 1000 hikmah from this issue and we as servants of Allah must keep believing and eager to find solutions for facing this issue excellently. Surah al-Imran 159-160

الَّذِينَ قَالَ لَهُمُ النَّاسُ إِنَّ النَّاسَ قَدْ جَمَعُوا لَكُمْ فَاخْشَوْهُمْ فَزَادَهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَقَالُوا حَسْبُنَا اللَّهُ وَنِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ * فَانقَلَبُوا بِنِعْمَةٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَفَضْلٍ لَمْ يَمَسْسَهُمْ سُوءٌ وَاتَّبَعُوا رِضْوَانَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ ذُو فَضْلٍ عَظِيمٍ

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