



ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 pandemic that first emerged in December 2019 in Wuhan, China has become a sign of a global health crisis. The massive virus transmission in various regions has prompted the government to establish policies of social distancing, lockdown and independent isolation to control its spread. The government-imposed restrictive policy has affected the mental health of the public. In the end, social restrictions create a psychological stress in the form of loneliness, fear and anxiety which also increases the risk of death.

This research was conducted to identify and find out how traumatic conditions in society have contributed to the increase in mortality during a pandemic. In line with that, this study is aimed at answering three research questions regarding how the intensity of death associated with psychological trauma occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic, how psychological trauma can affect mortality rates during the Covid-19 period, and how it responds at the individual level. Family and community level influence the psychological trauma that results in death during a pandemic. To find out the answers to the three research questions, a qualitative research method was employed that based on data sources in the form of books, journals and online news published from September to December 2020. The data collection process was carried out using the keyword "death during the Covid-19 pandemic" and focused in the cases of suicide which were then selected into 44 cases of deaths that occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic. This study focuses on the phenomenon of death using a virtual ethnographic approach as has been done in previous anthropological studies.

The results of the study found that the spread of Covid-19 had created a psychological trauma in the form of fear, anxiety and panic during the pandemic. This traumatic experience led to depression which affected the meaning and response of society in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. Misleading in interpreting Covid-19 have actually triggered suicide so that the intensity of death during the Covid-19 pandemic has increased. In addition to suicide, mistakes in interpreting Covid-19 result in indifference and neglect of the sick, which leads to death. The increase in mortality during the Covid-19 pandemic was also influenced by several indicators such as socio-economic changes, failure of adaptation, misinformation, weak public education, and low public participation. Through these indicators, it can be seen that the fact that people's ignorance and fear are the reasons for many misguided actions that lead to death during the pandemic, especially suicide.

Keywords: Death, Psychological Trauma, Covid-19, Misconduct