

UNDERSTANDING, IMPACT AND COMPLIANCE TOWARD THE SUCCESSFUL OF MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER (MCO) COMMAND DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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ABSTRACT

The pandemic COVID-19 has various health, economic, social, cultural, religious, and psychological impacts on communities around the world, including Malaysia. The Movement Control Order (MCO), which came into effect on March 18, 2020, has changed the daily lives of Malaysians. The implementation of the MCO is one step that the Malaysian government has taken to reduce the incidence of epidemics. The main factor for this success is the political stability that played a role in managing the COVID-19 virus crisis. Mature and stable policies have influenced the strength of the government in the face of this crisis. Harmony between political leaders and health experts is also very important in determining the country's response to this pandemic. This shows that success in containing the COVID-19 epidemic lies not only in a sophisticated infrastructure but also in political stability and effective leadership in formulating effective strategies to deal with this epidemic. This study was conducted to determine the relationship between the extent of people's understanding of the MCO, the extent of the people's impact when the MCO is implemented and the extent of the people's compliance with the laws set during the MCO regarding the success of the MCO in Malaysia in containing the COVID-19 outbreak. These three independent variables are very important factors in the success of curbing this epidemic.

Keywords: pandemic, epidemic, and movement control order (MCO).

KEFAHAMAN, IMPAK DAN PEMATUHAN TERHADAP KEJAYAAN PERINTAH KAWALAN PERGERAKAN (PKP) SEMASA PANDEMIK COVID-19

ABSTRAK

Pandemik COVID-19 mempunyai pelbagai kesan kesihatan, ekonomi, sosial, budaya, agama dan psikologi kepada masyarakat di seluruh dunia, termasuk Malaysia. Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) yang berkuat kuasa pada 18 Mac 2020 telah mengubah kehidupan seharian rakyat Malaysia. Pelaksanaan PKP merupakan satu langkah yang telah diambil oleh kerajaan Malaysia untuk mengurangkan kejadian wabak. Faktor utama kejayaan ini ialah kestabilan politik yang memainkan peranan dalam menguruskan krisis virus COVID-19. Dasar yang matang dan stabil telah mempengaruhi kekuatan kerajaan dalam menghadapi krisis ini. Keharmonian antara pemimpin politik dan pakar kesihatan juga amat penting dalam menentukan tindak balas negara semasa pandemik ini. Ini menunjukkan bahawa kejayaan dalam membendung wabak COVID -19 bukan sahaja terletak pada infrastruktur yang canggih, tetapi juga pada kestabilan politik dan kepimpinan yang berkesan dalam merangka strategi berkesan untuk menangani wabak ini. Kajian ini dijalankan untuk mengetahui hubungan antara tahap kefahaman rakyat terhadap PKP, sejauh mana kesan rakyat apabila PKP dilaksanakan, dan sejauh mana pematuhan rakyat terhadap undang-undang yang ditetapkan semasa PKP mengenai kejayaan PKP di Malaysia dalam membendung wabak COVID-19. Ketiga-tiga pembolehubah tidak bersandar ini merupakan faktor yang sangat penting dalam kejayaan membendung wabak ini.

Kata kunci: *pandemik, wabak, perintah kawalan pergerakan (PKP).*

INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed on January 12, 2020, that a novel coronavirus was the cause of a cluster of respiratory illnesses in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, which was reported to the WHO on December 31, 2019. On January 25, 2020, Malaysia reported its first three cases, all of which were Chinese nationals who had visited the country. Malaysia saw an increase in COVID-19 cases after a four-day Tablighi Jamaat event held at Kuala Lumpur's Masjid Jamek Sri Petaling between February 27 and March 1, 2020. By the 20th of March, the Sri Petaling Tabligh cluster had been linked to 48% of the country's COVID-19 cases (3,347). The Movement Control Order (MCO), which went into force on March 18, 2020, was implemented by the Malaysian government, which is led by Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, in reaction to the spike in incidents in March 2020. The MCO, which was scheduled to end on March 31, 2020, was extended until early May 2020. By early May, the MCO had resulted in a gradual decrease in daily infections. The government gradually eased lockdown restrictions, beginning with the "Conditional Movement Control Order" (CMCO) on May 4, 2020, which allowed most business sectors to reopen under strict standard operating procedures (SOPs), and ending with the "Recovery Movement Control Order" (RMCO) on June 10, 2020.

Harmony between political figures and medical experts is crucial for the country's reaction to this disease. Furthermore, the government needs the assistance and participation of all parties in order to stop this epidemic. Without a strong and stable administration, neither this pandemic nor its effects can be controlled. This is an important factor in Malaysia's success in dealing with the epidemic and becoming a model country at the international level (Haliza, 2020). This shows that success in containing the epidemic of COVID-19 lies not only in sophisticated infrastructure but also in political stability and effective leadership in devising effective strategies to deal with it. Therefore, political harmony and a peaceful atmosphere are the most important keys to contain this epidemic and prevent it from further spreading and threatening the public (Siti et al., 2021).

The problem of socio-cultural adaptation that occurs in Malaysian society becomes a point of observation in this study. A practise that has become ingrained in culture, such as gathering during

festivals, socializing, and meeting, is no longer encouraged because of COVID-19. It is becoming more contagious as one of the primary means of transmission through direct contact. This situation also affects the way people interact with each other and perform daily routines such as when buying something, paying at a store, using an ATM, or running errands. In order to avoid the virus being spread quickly, the government had enforced the use of face masks and recommended them to all participants in all types of activity.

Adherence to socio-cultural practises in daily life after MCO gets slower and experiences movement restrictions due to lifestyle restrictions that need to be followed. The term "New Norm," which was introduced by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, is a new challenge for Malaysians to adjust to the new environment and life after the MCO due to the Corona pandemic (COVID-19). This study was conducted at the Universiti Melaka (UNIMEL) to determine the relationship between the extent of students' understanding of the Movement Control Order (MCO), the extent of the impact on students when the MCO was implemented, and the extent of student compliance with the law during the MCO against the success of the Movement Control Order in Malaysia in curbing the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition, a total of 74 students at the UNIMEL were used as respondents to the study. These three independent variables are critical in determining the success of containing this epidemic.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study are as follows:

- i. Identify the relationship between the extents to which the people understand the Movement Control Order and the success of the movement control order in Malaysia in containing the outbreak of COVID-19.
- ii. Identify the relationship between the extent of the impact on the people when the Movement Control Order was carried out and the success of the Movement Control Order in Malaysia to contain the outbreak of COVID-19.
- iii. Identify the relationship between the extents of people's compliance with the law set during the Movement Control Order and the success of the Movement Control Order in Malaysia to contain the outbreak of COVID-19.

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

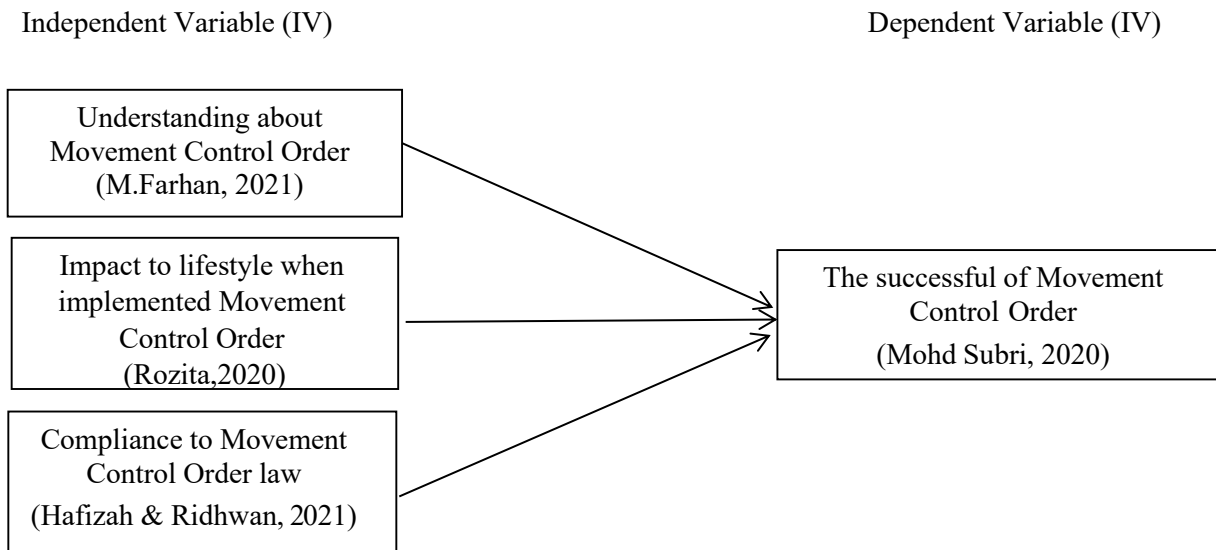


Figure 1.1: Research Framework

LITERATURE REVIEW

People's understanding of the Movement Control Order (MCO)

A study conducted by Tahajuddin et al. (2021) resulted in social isolation in the community because the officers stay in residential areas and are prohibited from leaving the house except for important business. Cooperation and understanding from the public are critical for the mission's success and reducing the risk of COVID-19 contagion. The department's front line in health services is performing well in dealing with these patients, and the COVID-19 treatment procedures are effective. They perform their duties tirelessly with full dedication, responsibility, and competence. This order is also being done for security forces and government services, including 25 types of sectors. These sectors were exempted from the MCO because they have to meet the requirements in order to fulfil general public needs. Some of the people tend to assume that this order has made their lives difficult, and they tend to disobey the instructions. Even though it appears to have been implemented suddenly and abruptly, there have been complaints about the difficulty of completing daily tasks. This includes complaints from small traders and business activities, which are severely affected by the MCO.

Muhammad (2021), it was found that infectious diseases do not exclude the possibility of not complying with the MCO among the elderly because the main causes of positive cases of COVID-19 were among the elderly. While young adults between 26 and 30 years old were also easily infected by the virus because this group of people liked to go out and be in the public openly most of the time during the pandemic, According to Muhd (2020), in Islamic teachings, objectives and goals need to be parallel with the current needs of the community in order to be able to avoid such viruses. This is because the practise of charity can help lighten the burdens of others, and this is one of the noblest practises in the eyes of Allah SWT.

As for Muhammad (2021), Malaysians are synonymous with visiting and gathering each other during festivals and celebrations, and because of the MCO, it makes it difficult for them to obey the order. Particularly when the order was given during the celebration of Hari Raya and other festivals. It is because understanding religion is the most important factor that contributes to MCO compliance among people. Besides that, the influence of the surrounding environment and the attitude to obey the order are also important factors that make the MCO successful (Goh, 2020). This can be tested using the first hypothesis below.

H_0 : There is no significant relationship between the factor of students' understanding of the Movement Control Order and the success of the Movement Control Order in Malaysia in containing the COVID-19 outbreak.

H_1 : There is a significant relationship between the factor of students' understanding of the Movement Control Order and the success of the Movement Control Order in Malaysia in containing the COVID-19 outbreak.

Impact on the people when MCO is implemented

A study conducted by Rozita (2020) on the effects of the pandemic COVID-19 is not only focused on the national economy but also affects other aspects of social well-being. The overall effect of the MCO will be felt especially by low-income groups and workers in the informal sector. The income of hawkers, traders, taxi drivers, e-hailing drivers, and professionals with daily income status will be affected. Consequences from the MCO can make people face financial pressure, which can cause conflict and family separation. Other issues, such as mental health, can easily distract until "overwhelmed with grief," which leads to extreme anxiety and, as a result, an "anxiety attack." Employees who work from home are at risk of "stress" due to mood swings while completing work tasks at home. This is because working from home is not the same as working in an office environment. People are easily distracted while working at home because such environments are not motivating for most of the people who are used to working in an office. For example, a woman must perform housework while also completing job tasks assigned to her by her superior. Moreover, people are prone to excessive use of gadgets and the internet.

Studies have shown that excessive screen use makes people anxious, stressed, and restless and can cause depression if left untreated.

According to Mujani et al. (2020), MCO has had a negative impact on the public in the employment sector because many sectors were forced to immediately close their operations to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The closure of businesses during the MCO also causes businesses to be unable to cover the costs and wages of workers and have to lay them off. Many businesses are forced to shut down and stop their production. This will lead to an increase in the unemployment rate in the first quarter of 3.9 percent compared to 3.3 percent in 2019 (Labor Force Statistics report, 2020). The outbreak of COVID-19 has had many effects on the whole world. COVID-19 has a major impact on the workforce, models, and influencing factors for job availability. According to Robert et al. (2020), in order to slow the spread of this pandemic, a specific policy of social containment and strict movement control must be implemented, and this policy has caused hardship for many people because they have lost their source of income as well as their freedom of movement.

Economic pressure and sudden changes in social style of life during the COVID-19 pandemic are currently one of the causes of emotional stress in the community (Farhan, 2021). Pandemic COVID-19 caused many people to be depressed due to the economic downturn and loss of work and income. Society is expected to manage stress better when struggling with uncertainty in life so that it does not have a negative impact on them and the people around them. This statement can be tested using the below hypothesis:

H_0 : There is no significant relationship between the factors that impact people and the success of the Movement Control Order in Malaysia.

H_2 : There is a significant relationship between the factors that impact people and the success of the Movement Control Order in Malaysia.

People's compliance with the current laws (MCO)

A large number of people are able to discipline themselves to obey each standard operating procedure (SOP) that has been issued. When the first MCO was introduced, even though it was something that was never expected by all the people until they had to sit in the house and could not go out, they still obeyed the overall aspect. The behaviour and actions of Malaysians are very different in complying with government regulations, especially in MCO, when compared to some other countries. Even now the government has introduced a new order called Control Order Conditional Movement, whose condition is slightly looser than MCO, but no Malaysians deliberately take the opportunity to leave the house unnecessarily (Hamid et al., 2020). Based on the Hafizah (2021) study on public compliance with orders, the compliance rate of Malaysians to the MCO implemented by the government is high because most of them understand and enforce the purpose of the order. In addition to complying with government instructions to stop the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic in this country, many people are also able to discipline themselves to follow any standard operating procedure that has been issued by the government.

According to Farhan (2021), restrictions began to be eased when MCO 1.0 was successful, and it drastically reduced the rate of COVID-19 infection. As a result, the government began to reopen the economic sectors that had been severely harmed by the MCO. The government also re-introduced MCO 2.0, which started from January 13 to January 26, 2021, with the implementation method of MCO, CMCO & RMCO in states due to high infection rates that reach a dangerous level daily (Mohd, 2021). However, on January 19, 2021, MCO 2.0 was fully implemented in Malaysia, and the emergency regulations have also been approved by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (YDPA) to ensure that efforts to curb COVID-19 run smoothly. In order to investigate the relationship between the factors and people's compliance with the MCO's enforcement, the hypotheses below were derived:

H_0 : There is no significant relationship between the level of public compliance with the laws set during the Movement Control Order and the success of the Movement Control Order in Malaysia in curbing the COVID-19 outbreak.

H₃ : There is a significant relationship between the level of public compliance with the laws set during the Movement Control Order and the success of the Movement Control Order in Malaysia in curbing the COVID-19 outbreak.

The success of the movement control order in Malaysia in containing the epidemic COVID-19

The success of controlling COVID-19 depends on the high discipline of every layer of Malaysian compliance with the MCO. Compliance with MCO instructions is mandatory and is the responsibility of each person. It can have adverse effects on the people and the country in all aspects of life (Haliza, 2020). According to a study conducted by Tahajuddin et al. (2021), adherence to three factors, which include sitting at home, hygiene care, and social distancing, These factors are seen as very effective in reducing the rate of new infections among people. According to Hafizah (2021), the Movement Control Order has been implemented as one measure to prevent and break the chain of transmission of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Police (PDRM) is given the responsibility to enforce the order movement by implementing roadblocks and monitoring standard procedures' operations. The police were deployed to ensure that this MCO is successful and runs smoothly in stopping the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak.

This study discusses the factors that contributed to the success of MCO in Malaysia during the pandemic. It was found that Covid-19 had a great impact on all aspects of life. At first, the effects tend to be focused on health issues, but "terrorism" and "attacks" on the security, financial, educational, and social sectors can even affect political stability if not dealt with properly. Only with solid support from all parties, government can implement various policies and measures in particular to restore the economic situation after the pandemic COVID-19.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher used a quantitative design by using the questionnaire distribution method to collect data. The questionnaire distribution method with cluster random sampling was used for this study. Part A (demographic) and Part B (understanding, impact and compliance toward the successful of MCO) of the questionnaire are divided into four sub-sections (1 for understanding, 2 for impact, 3 for compliance with the law, and 4 for MCO successes). Each item in the questionnaire will be measured using a five-level Likert scale for respondents to indicate their level of agreement with the given statement, where 1 indicates strongly disagree and 5 indicates strongly agree. Data is analysed using correlation analysis in order to test previously developed hypotheses.

Table 1: Distribution Of Questionnaire Questions

| Aspect | Number of Questions |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Section A: Respondent Demographic Information | 5 |
| Section B: Understanding, impact and compliance toward the successful of MCO | |
| Sub-Section 1: People's understanding of the MCO | 5 |
| Sub-Section 2: The impact that happened to the people when MCO was carried out. | 4 |
| Sub-Section 3: People's compliance with the laws set during the MCO | 5 |
| Sub-Section 4 : The success of the MCO in Malaysia in curbing the COVID-19 outbreak | 5 |
| Total No. of Question | 24 |

There are 7 faculties at UNIMEL, namely the *Fakulti Keilmuan Islam (FKI)*, *Fakulti Inovasi Perniagaan Dan Teknologi (FIPT)*, *Fakulti Sains Sosial (FSS)*, *Fakulti Pengurusan Hospitaliti dan Pelancongan (FPHP)*, *Fakulti Undang-Undang Governan Dan Hubungan Antarabangsa (FUG)*, *Fakulti Kejururawatan Dan Sains Kesihatan (FKSK)*, *Fakulti Teknologi Maklumat dan Media Digital (FTMD)*, *Fakulti Bahasa Dan Pendidikan (FBP)*. The researcher distributes the questionnaire by using a "Google Form" to students who are selected randomly. The determinant of the sample size in this study is based on the formula of Tabachnick and Fidell (2013), which is $N > 50 + 8m$. The total number of independent variables in this study is 3.

$$N = \text{sampel}$$

$$M = \text{number of variables}$$

$$N > 50 + 8(3) = 74$$

Therefore, in total, the researcher will select a total of 74 respondents randomly for this study.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Descriptive Analysis

Table 2 : Demographic Information

| Profile | | Frequency (N) | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|----------|---------------|----------------|
| Gender | Men | 36 | 48.6 |
| | Female | 38 | 51.4 |
| Age | 18-20 | 29 | 39.2 |
| | 21-30 | 41 | 55.4 |
| | 31-40 | 4 | 5.4 |
| Race | Malay | 73 | 98.6 |
| | Others | 1 | 1.4 |
| Level of Education | Diploma | 35 | 47.3 |
| | Bachelor | 35 | 47.3 |
| | PHd | 4 | 5.4 |
| Programme | BBAMGT | 9 | 12.2 |
| | BBAEC | 6 | 8.1 |
| | BBAMKT | 6 | 8.1 |
| | BBAF | 5 | 6.8 |
| | BBAC | 3 | 4.0 |
| | BIBT | 6 | 8.1 |
| | DP | 10 | 13.5 |
| | DBIS | 15 | 20.3 |
| | DW | 3 | 4.0 |
| | DA | 7 | 9.5 |
| | PHd MGT | 4 | 5.4 |

Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis is used in analyzing the data to strengthen the results of the research that has been conducted.

Table 2: Correlation Between Independent Variables And The Successful of the MCO

| | | Correlations | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------|------------|
| | | The Success of MCO | Understanding | Impact | Compliance |
| The Success of MCO | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .593** | .502** | .614** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 | .000 | .000 |
| | N | 74 | 74 | 74 | 74 |
| Understanding | Pearson Correlation | .593** | 1 | .605** | .581** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | | .000 | .000 |
| | N | 74 | 74 | 74 | 74 |
| Impact | Pearson Correlation | .502** | .605** | 1 | .726** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 | | .000 |
| | N | 74 | 74 | 74 | 74 |
| Compliance | Pearson Correlation | .614** | .581** | .726** | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | .000 | .000 | |
| | N | 74 | 74 | 74 | 74 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The results of the analysis displayed in Table 2 show a relationship between people's understanding and the success of the MCO, which recorded $r = 0.593$. In addition, the results of the study found that there is a relationship between the impact that happened to the people and the success of the MCO, which is $r = 0.6502$. Next, the result of the study also found a relationship between people's compliance with the laws set and the success of the MCO, which recorded $r = 0.614$. All three of these factors have a positive relationship with the success of the Movement Control Order in curbing the COVID-19 outbreak. Therefore, H_1 , H_2 , and H_3 will be accepted, and H_0 for all the independent variables will be rejected.

CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis, all independent variables have a significant relationship with the dependent variable. The study's findings indicate that understanding the control prescription movement has a significant influence. The results of the study show that the factor of students' understanding of the MCO prescription has a significant influence. This study can be used to get a clear picture of the level of acceptance and engagement of students in online learning during MCO. This finding is also supported by a study conducted by Hassan (2021) on the relationship between students' understanding of MCO and the success of movement control prescriptions in Malaysia in containing the COVID-19 outbreak. This finding is also supported by a study conducted by Goh (2020) and Jonathan (2020) regarding the relationship between understanding of movement control prescription and the success of movement control prescriptions in Malaysia in curbing the COVID-19 outbreak.

In addition, based on the results of the analysis obtained shows that there is a significant relationship between the level of impact on the population of the implementation of the MCO and the success of the Malaysian MCO in containing the COVID-19 outbreak. This study can be supported by the study conducted by Fazley Fadzil (2020), where the MCO has a great impact on students who have to study virtually, which to some extent causes a lack of understanding of the topics discussed. This study

stands in line with Khairun (2020) and Abd. R. (2021), where MCO has a big impact for those who need to do their daily work activities virtually because of a lack of understanding of work tasks.

In terms of compliance factors, the study found a significant relationship between the factors and the success of the MCO in Malaysia in containing the COVID-19 outbreak. The findings of this study can be supported by studies that are being carried out by Hafizah (2021) on the level of Malaysians' compliance with the MCO implemented by the government, because most of them clearly understand the purpose of the ordinance and the reason it is being enforced. Besides following government directives to curb the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic in this country, many people are also capable of self-discipline in order to follow any standard operating procedure (SOP) that has been issued.

From the results of the study, it can be concluded that the Movement Control Order (MCO) presents a great challenge and risk to the people who will go through a time when it will be difficult to carry out their respective duties and commitments. This study is important because it shows the effectiveness of MCO implementation in managing the number of cases of COVID-19. It has provided clues to further research areas that can be carried out in the future with a widespread scope of study that covers different aspects, such as background and culture, that can be done in various layers of society in Malaysia.

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