

# Analysis of the Impact of Hoax News during the Covid-19 Pandemic from the Perspective of National Defense

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**Abstract:** Hoax is information that is engineered to cover up the actual information, in other words Hoax is defined as an attempt to distort the facts by using information that is convincing but cannot be verified, it can also be interpreted as an act of obscuring the true information, by flooding the media with false messages so that it can cover up the correct information. Hoax or fake news is one form of Cyber Crime that seems simple, easy to do but has a big impact on people's social life. Furthermore, the search results obtained were grouped according to the research objectives, namely 1. Description of hoax news, 2. The concept of hoax news and its distribution in the Hoax community, 3. The Impact of Hoax News in Society and 4. National Defense and Security During the COVID-19 Pandemic. obtained then analyzed and discussed, and finally drawn conclusions. We cannot avoid the impact of hoax news in the community, this is because hoax news circulating in the community will directly have an impact on the formation of public opinion against them. Where in the formation of public opinion in the community will also have a very significant impact on social life. In fact, hoaxes are like a disease that can attack anyone at any time. If one person has been vaccinated, at least one person will be immune to various diseases. The same applies to hoax news. After preparing digital literacy protectors, the public hopes that hoax news will not enter. Adhere to digital literacy and expect someone to sift through information, regardless of whether the information is meaningful or not, whether there are arguments, data or facts.

**Keywords:** Hoax, Corona Virus, National Defense, Pandemic

## I. INTRODUCTION

The progress of information technology is very fast at this time, so the benefits are felt by the community. Various information such as the needs of the community have been greatly facilitated by the existence of this information technology. As an example of social media, this type that is already familiar to our ears is Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, TikTok, and others, which are felt by most people in Indonesia.

As a result, the development of technological progress is very fast and also makes it easier for the public to obtain information and news that is disseminated through online media, not only by news sites that are already known to the public, but every internet user can contribute to the dissemination of information, especially social media.

Information or news that is distributed individually or there is no accountability for the truth or better known as hoax.

The term hoax is defined as information or news that contains things that are uncertain or which are not really facts that actually happened. The existence of information or news that is considered untrue has been surveyed by Mastel (2017) in Juditha, C. (2018), with results stating that out of 1,146 respondents, 44.3% of them receive hoax news every day and 17.2% receive more, than once a day. Mainstream media is also a channel for disseminating hoax information/news, namely radio by 1.20%, print media by 5%, and television by 8.70%. The channels that are widely used in the spread of hoaxes are through social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tiktok) the most used is 92.40%, the rest is done through chat applications (Whatsapp, Line, Telegram) and websites. (Juditha, C, 2018).

There is now a lot of information about health through social media, this is due to the availability of various sources of information. Information about health and social media today is extraordinary, considering the accessibility and availability of various sources of information that support causing social media users to get the information they want (Wahjuwibowo, I.S. & Hereyah, Y; 2016).

Social media is now filled with false information (hoax), about the dangers of the Corona Virus hoax news that is troubling the Indonesian people. As we all know, the world, especially Indonesia, is currently battling the Corona Covid-19 virus, which has claimed many victims. Data as of March 27, 2020 for Indonesia are patients with positive confirmed Covid-19 status, totaling 1,046 cases, 46 people were declared cured and 87 people died (Pramudiarja. A.N.U; 2020).

Hoax is information that is engineered to cover up actual information, in other words Hoax is defined as an attempt to distort facts using information that is convincing but cannot be verified, it can also be interpreted as an act of obscuring the actual information, by flooding the media with the wrong message so that it can cover up the correct information (Mansyah, 2017).

Hoax or fake news is a form of Cyber Crime that seems simple, easy to do but has a huge impact on people's social life. Hoax will hit people's emotions, and cause

negative opinions so that it can lead to the disintegration of the nation (Nugroho, 2017).

The gap between the lack of digital literacy in the midst of this amount of information is misused by several groups to produce news that is not necessarily true or is often called a hoax. Social media is an important medium for spreading hoaxes (Figueira & Oliveira, 2017; Grech, 2017).

The appeal of many parties to use social media wisely seems difficult to implement due to the low literacy level of the Indonesian people. Existing laws are also not strictly enforced and fail to prevent or minimize negative social media use. In the short term, law enforcement against perpetrators of hoax news spreaders is a step that must be taken. But in the long run, of course, this will not be effective if people still have a low understanding of the digital world. This is because the key to excellence or dominance in cyberspace lies in the community.

Therefore, digital literacy is needed that will create a society that has creative and critical thoughts and opinions. The socio-cultural life of the community will tend to be safe and profitable. The threat of national disintegration due to hoax news can be overcome.

The threats and dangers of producing and spreading hoax news are increasingly widely understood. Attention to this issue as part of information security or cyber (cyber security) has been implemented although it is still in various scales and methods.

#### *Research Methods*

In the preparation of this article, the research method used is library research, which is to collect all reading materials related to the problems discussed, then understand them carefully and thoroughly so that they can produce descriptive research findings, starting with a search from the Ministry's web site. Communication and Information <https://www.kominfo.go.id/content/detail>

In this paper, which is done by researching library materials or secondary data, its origin can be known or it is also called library law research (Soekanto Soerjono, 1984).

Doctrinal research is in the form of library research which is carried out by collecting materials, both secondary and/or tertiary materials. As an in-depth study and as a support for this research, the author conducted a literature study or literature study in depth, using descriptive writing using qualitative methods. All materials collected, the authors process and analyze the materials that have been collected.

Furthermore, the search results obtained are grouped according to the research objectives, namely; 1. Description of hoax news, 2. The concept of hoax news and its distribution in society Hoax, 3. The Impact of Hoax News on the Community and 4. National Defense and Security During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Furthermore, the data obtained are then analyzed and discussed, and finally conclusions are drawn.

## II. DISCUSSION RESULTS

**1. Description of hoax news** A chain message has circulated on Whatsapp social media stating that there is a patient infected with the Corona Virus at Siloam Jember Hospital. However, according to the Siloam Jember Hospital, there was a patient with Corona characteristics, but after treatment, the patient was not proven to have been exposed to Covid-19. (Kominfo; January 20, 2020). Next, Kominfo reported on its website as of January 23, that information had circulated stating that the Corona Virus had spread and entered Indonesia, brought by workers from China who worked at the BRI 2 Benhil Building, Central Jakarta. However, the Minister of Health stated that the employee had strep throat (Kominfo, January 23, 2020).

Fake news also circulated through chain messages on WhatsApp containing screenshots of conversations on behalf of Dr. RSUP. Sarjito. In the message, it appears a man urges you to use a mask when visiting Dr. RSUP. Sarjito was due to a dangerous virus originating from Wuhan, and this morning there were already 2 nurses who were infected. However, according to Dr. Sardjito, the news is not true (Kominfo; 23 January 2020). It is suspected to have circulated on Facebook stating that one person suspected of being infected with the Corona Virus was found at the Wahidin Hospital in Makassar. However, the President Director of the hospital denied the news, who said that the suspected patient had a respiratory infection (ARI), (Kominfo, January 26, 2020).

News about patients infected with the Corona Virus has also circulated through online media which states that the Corona Virus has entered Jakarta and 1 patient is being isolated at the Sulianti Saroso Hospital. The explanation from the Director of Medical and Nursing stated that after the test the patient was declared negative (Kominfo; January 26, 2020). There is still news circulating in Surabaya, which was quoted by Kominfo, that Facebook has spread about Foreign Citizens (WNA) from China being attacked by the Corona Virus at Dr Soetomo General Hospital Surabaya. However, according to the Public Relations of Dr Soetomo Hospital, the patient who came from China was said to have not contracted the Corona Virus (Kominfo; January 27, 2020).

What happened in Surabaya was allegedly by Kominfo which stated that it had circulated on social media mentioning a 7-month-old patient died of the Corona Virus at Dr Soetomo Hospital Surabaya, but this was denied by the Hospital who confirmed that until the news was revealed January 27, 2020, there have been no patients with symptoms of the Corona Virus (Kominfo; January 27, 2020). Hoax news also occurred in Halmahera, this is related to the existence of accounts on social media that contain photos of appeal letters to employees of PT. The Indonesia Weda Bay Industrial Park (IWIP) is accompanied by a narrative that contains three Chinese TKA employees who have died due to Corona. After being confirmed to PT. IWIP, conveyed that no employees were infected with the Corona Virus (Kominfo; 29/1/2020).

Furthermore, still from Kominfo, it was reported that it was known that a video depicting the seconds of a resident who was affected by the Corona Virus in a shopping center in Lombok, but after being traced the resident fainted not because of the Corona Virus, but because he had epilepsy (Kominfo, January 29, 2020). Furthermore, in Singkawang, information was also circulated via WhatsApp that there was one positive patient suspected of Corona from the South Singkawang Health Center who was referred to the Regional General Hospital (RSUD) dr. Abdul Aziz, Singkawang City. However, this was denied by the Director of RSUD dr. Abdul aziz said that until February 1, 2020, there were no residents with ODP status (Kominfo; February 2, 2020).

It was alleged by Kominfo that a video had circulated on social media showing a security guard suddenly falling to the floor in the Tanjung Duren area, causing people around him to panic. In the video there is an explanation that the security officer was exposed to the Corona Virus, but after being examined by medical officers, it turned out that he had fainted because of the flu (Kominfo, March 24, 2020). Kominfo reported that there was news circulating on social media stating that there was a patient infected with the Corona Virus and being treated at the Cibabat Hospital, Cimahi. However, according to Plt. The main director of the hospital who entered the ER on March 06 2020 was a patient with cough, runny nose and resembling an acute respiratory infection (ARI), (Kominfo, March 10, 2020).

#### *The concept of hoax news and its distribution in society Hoax*

Hoax news is now familiar to all circles of society. Even the elderly and the elderly are now familiar with hoax news. Where hoax news is a frightening specter for the community, especially in a situation like this. Not infrequently we also find that hoax news has many types ranging from health hoax news, politics, racial and ethnic groups and so on. (Tenriawali, 2020).

Hoax news itself is news that is added to the truth or subtracted from the content of the news that actually happened. (Dliya'ul Chaq, 2020). The existence of this manipulation raises concern for the community. This is also felt by the people of the Ngronggo village where the results of observations in the community show that in the midst of this pandemic they are very vulnerable to being affected by the impact of hoax news, especially news about health. In communication science, hoax news is classified as noise in the communication process.

In the communication model, Shanon and Weaver explains that the presence of noise is a natural thing in a communication process. In which the message conveyed by the information resource (source information) is not received by the receiver as a whole. Which in this process has an error in the distribution or the channel used. (Suryanto, 2015). We can understand this when the government as a source of information conveys messages regarding the current state of Covid-19 to the public, it also has noise in the process or

distribution channel. So that the message that reaches the community is incomplete or even exaggerated.

Meanwhile, if observed more deeply in the community, the spread of hoax news usually often occurs in family WA groups. This also happens a lot in the Ngronggo village community, where the results of research observations show that parents who use cellphones or cellphones are more often the ones who spread hoax news. According to research, people who are often the target of hoax news are people who are in the age range of 20-35 years. This is because at that age people will be more alert and anxious about the news that is happening around them. (Rayani & Purqoti, 2020). It was also explained again that although people in the adult age range were the targets of hoax news, they would be more aware of the truth of the news than people in the >36 year age range. Which people at that age have great anxiety so that when they get news that provokes or hoaxes they will immediately share the news into the family group before even finding out the truth.

This becomes another challenge during a pandemic like this. Which in addition to the state and government having to take care of the state of the country that is being hit by a pandemic, they also have to contain or prevent hoax news that will worsen the situation. So that the role of the family here is very important, which as a family, of course, all family members will take care of each other's family members. (Ashidiqie, 2020) Of course starting from the smallest things such as paying attention to the health of family members, maintaining relationships, and also maintaining information obtained during a pandemic like this.

This will trigger the spread of hoax news if in our family line we cannot filter out hoax news then the news will later be spread to the village / urban village, sub-district and so on. Because it is true that the spread of hoax news is very fast, especially through word of mouth, which is a habit of Indonesian people to backbite with neighbors. As for hoax news, it is also easier to spread because there is no news filtering on social media, which will make it easier for hoax news to spread and then form bad public opinion. (Budiman, 2017)

#### *The Impact of Hoax News on the Community*

We cannot avoid the impact of hoax news on society, this is because hoax news circulating in the community will immediately have an effect on the formation of public opinion on them. Where in the formation of public opinion in the community will also have a very significant impact on social life. (Budiman, 2017) Leading public opinion will later lead to a stigma which will be trusted by the public. Like some time ago when the vaccine arrived in Indonesia, people were so indifferent and did not believe in the vaccine. Due to the existence of hoax news circulating in the community. The content of the news is the effect of vaccinations carried out by the government can cause death. This also happened in the Ngronggo village community, where this phenomenon

occurred some time ago, namely when the initial vaccination was held in the Ngronggo village, the Ngronggo village community was very indifferent and did not dare to be vaccinated even though they had been scheduled. Only a few people come and dare to be vaccinated.

Judging from the case, we can conclude that the impact of hoax news on the community cannot be taken lightly. Then the role of the family, community leaders, and the government is very necessary in a situation like this. Which is the silent spiral theory that occurs in society or the existence of a group of people who know the truth of the hoax news are not silent. Therefore, assistance from community leaders or direct government is needed to explain information that is indeed a fact. So that later there will be no impact of anxiety and bad stigma that appears in the community for the latest information from the Covid-19 news. (Rosidine, 2020).

In addition, in the impact of the spread of hoax news which is very bad for the community. So we also have to provide an understanding of the legal basis and also the regulations that explain the perpetrators of spreading hoax news, (Putri, 2020) so that when we get suspicious news we will first crosscheck the truth. In the end we will also find out whether the information is really a fact or just a hoax. And we also avoid the specter of the law for spreading or spreading hoax news. Therefore, the role of all lines of society is needed to overcome the impact of hoax news and also the spread of Covid-19. Because if people believe in false information made by irresponsible people, indirectly later on, people will also become indifferent to information that is really real. And the spread of Covid-19 will also increase with the public's distrust of the information submitted by the government. (Mulyadi, 2020).

#### *National Defense and Security During the COVID-19 Pandemic*

Social media is now filled with false information (hoax), about the dangers of the Corona Virus hoax news that is troubling the Indonesian people. As we all know, the world, especially Indonesia, is currently battling the Corona Covid-19 virus, which has claimed many victims. Data as of March 27, 2020 for Indonesia are patients with positive confirmed Covid-19 status, totaling 1,046 cases, 46 people were declared cured and 87 people died (Pramudiarja. A.N.U; 2020).

The government is focused on the Covid-19 pandemic and its countermeasures, but there are few, few, groups of people or communities who take advantage of this moment to look for loopholes and opportunities to divide the nation by undermining national defense and security. This has to be a concern of the government, because in relation to national defense and security it is important for a nation and state to remain a sovereign nation and state, the state in this case must not underestimate the disturbances that come, because this - Big things start from small things. Do not be given the opportunity for anyone for any group to disturb the stability of national defense and security.

As stated by the Executive Director of the Center of Intelligent and Strategic Studies (CISS) Ngasiman Djoyonegoro at Media Indonesia Online, he said that the Covid-19 pandemic had an impact on all lines of human life, not only in the economic field, but also in the field of defense and state security. With the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus becoming a serious threat to Indonesia, the government must anticipate what things will happen in the future, including perhaps strengthening the Indonesian National Army (TNI) and the Indonesian National Police as well as the public against disturbances to national defense and security.

By applying the meaning of digital literacy as an effort to prevent hoaxes during the Covid-19 pandemic in the national defense system. Digital literacy is like a vaccine to maintain body resistance (Heryanto, 2017). In fact, hoaxes are like diseases that can attack anyone at any time. If one person has been vaccinated, at least one person will be immune to various diseases. The same goes for hoax news. After setting up a digital literacy protector, people hope that hoax will not enter. Adhere to digital literacy and expect someone to filter information, regardless of whether the information is meaningful or not; whether there are arguments, data, or facts.

In order to fight hoax news and maintain the integration of the Indonesian nation, one form of digital literacy is to spread the understanding and values of defending the state in digital media and mass media.

One of the basic elements of digital literacy that is very important is critical or critical in responding to content. This element is the most decisive element in preventing fraud. The key is not to absorb information obtained from the Internet, including information on social media and chat applications, raw. In practice, it encourages Internet users to always be critical and suspicious, especially on content that is too bombarded, meaningless, and full of hateful nuances. Because this content may contain fraudulent or manipulated information.

Digital literacy will create a society with creative and critical thoughts and opinions. They will not be easily swayed by provocative questions and become victims of digital-based scam or fraudulent information. Thus, the socio-cultural life of the community will tend to be safe and profitable. The threat of national disintegration due to scam news can be overcome.

The threats and dangers of producing and disseminating hoax news are increasingly widely understood. Attention to this problem as part of information security or cyber (cyber security) has been implemented even though it is still in various scales and methods. The Indonesian Ministry of Defense Puskom pays good attention to the flow of information, especially those related to the Ministry of Defense, defense equipment, state defense, defense cooperation and border areas.

### a. Crawl

Carry out monitoring of online media coverage related to the Ministry of Defense and or RI defense policies.

### b. Analysis of negative sentiments

Negative sentiment analysis is the process of analyzing all information or news that appears in online media that have been successfully detected by machines or crawling tools.

### c Publication

Publish accurate information in the form of writings/articles with good data presentation to straighten out negative public opinions or sentiments.

The Indonesian Armed Forces' Infolahta Center is currently carrying out efforts related to cyber security, which is still limited to infrastructure security and limited negative content protection. Network Infrastructure Security and Negative Content Protection. Regarding the handling of hoax news, until now BSSN does not carry out the handling of negative content or hoax news in cyberspace, both on online media and social media. Head of the National Cyber and Crypto Agency (BSSN), Major General TNI (Purn) Djoko Setiadi stated that the current task of BSSN is to handle cyber and network security. Negative content in the cyber/internet world is handled by the Ministry of Communication and Information This is released on the official website of the Ministry of Communication and Information (BSSN) Only Handle Cyber and Network Security.

The results of research conducted on the role of cyber security in overcoming hoax news in cyberspace or cyber in Indonesia show that cyber security is the backbone (backbound) which has a broad role that is manifested in a defense system and as the main tool for dealing with hoax news attacks on the internet.

Based on the approach to role theory, the dimensions of the role can be in the form of a policy, tool, dispute resolution or shock therapy role. (Biddle and Thomas, 1966)

During January–March 2020, hoax news about the Corona Virus was spread 50 times, with the topics of Corona Virus outbreak, treatment and prevention of Corona Virus infection, social behavior of the community in dealing with the virus, Site <https://www.kominfo.go.id/>, is the site with the most warnings to the public about the Corona Virus hoax news, while DKI Jakarta is the area most mentioned in hoax news, and hoax news was disseminated the most on March 24, 2020, which was 10 times. (Rahayu, R.N ,2020)

According to the results of the study, several main factors were driving the development of internet Corona Virus hoax news in Indonesia, including:

1. The rapid development of internet users (netters) in Indonesia

2. IT infrastructure development
3. Lack of digital literacy

This shows that the handling of hoax news has not yet reached the optimal point. Moreover, the number of complaints content that has not been followed up will be a contributor to threats the following year.

### III. CONCLUSION

Hoax is one type of cyber crime that can threaten the integrity of the country. Hoax spread massively like a virus through social media channels, starting from publishers of news, opinions, data, photos, and images. According to the results of the study, several main factors were driving the development of internet Corona Virus hoax news in Indonesia, including:

1. The rapid development of internet users (netters) in Indonesia
2. IT infrastructure development
4. Lack of digital literacy

Based on the results of the research above, this shows that the handling of hoax news has not yet reached the optimal point. Moreover, the large number of complaint content that is not followed up will be a contributor to threats in the following year.

With the concept of integrating the concept of digital literacy, it is hoped that it can prevent hoaxes and strengthen the national defense system. Digital literacy will create a society that has creative and critical thoughts and opinions. They will not be easily swayed by provocative questions and become victims of digital-based scam or fraudulent information. Thus, the socio-cultural life of the community will tend to be safe and profitable. The threat of national disintegration due to scam news can be overcome.

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