

THE IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT SOCIAL ASSISTANCE ON COMMUNITY SURVIVAL DURING THE 2021 COVID-19 PANDEMIC (CASE STUDY OF BONE REGENCY, SOUTH SULAWESI)

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the effect of social assistance on community survival during the Covid-19 pandemic in Bone Regency. The government's efforts in distributing social aid through money, goods, or services transfers by the central/regional government aim to improve social welfare, protect the community from social risks, and support the community's economic capacity. This study uses a quantitative method with data obtained from 51 respondents through a Google Form questionnaire, and data analysis is carried out using SmartPLS software. The theory used is the EUCS (End User Computing Satisfaction) model to test the effect of social assistance through the variables of Direct Cash Assistance, Basic Food Package Assistance, Family Hope Program, and Cash Social Assistance on community survival. The results of the study showed that the variables Direct Cash Assistance, Family Hope Program, and Cash Social Assistance had a significant positive effect on the survival of the Bone Regency community. Meanwhile, the Basic Food Package Assistance variable did not show a significant impact. Based on the R-Square value of 0.851, it can be concluded that the contribution of these variables to community survival reached 85.1%.

INTRODUCTION

Currently, the biggest problem faced by every country is poverty. Poverty is one of the most difficult problems for policymakers to deal with (Haushofer & Fehr, 2014). Not without reason, poor families are more likely to become homeless, drug dependent, have domestic violence, health problems, teenage pregnancy, illiteracy, unemployment and low education. The economy is an important aspect that can support the progress of a nation. A great nation is a nation that can grow and advance the economic sector, both formal and informal, to pay attention to income equality for its citizens (Carr & Chen, 2001).

The Indonesian government itself realizes that regional development is one of the efforts to achieve the goal of a just and prosperous society (Sahid et al., n.d.). In line with



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this goal, various development activities have been directed towards regional development, especially in relatively underdeveloped areas. Regional development is carried out in an integrated and sustainable manner according to the priorities and needs of each region in line with the direction and targets of national development that have been set through long-term and short-term development (Dellink et al., 2017). To improve regional capacity in overcoming poverty, various policies and programs have been made and implemented by each region or through cooperation with the central government and the private sector (Hansen et al., 2019).

Poverty is a big job for our government, various methods have been used but have not been able to handle this problem. Poverty is a problem characterized by various things including low quality of life of the population, limited sufficiency and quality of food, limited and low quality of health services, child nutrition, and low quality of education services (Hedegaard, 2014). So far, various efforts have been made to reduce poverty through the provision of food needs, health and education services, expanding employment opportunities and so on (Buheji et al., 2020).

In line with the description above, it shows that the factors that cause poverty are internal factors in the form of needs that must be met immediately but do not have sufficient ability to manage the resources they have (insufficient skills, minimal education levels and others) (Galli et al., 2018). External factors in the form of natural disasters such as this economic crisis, as well as the absence of partisanship in the form of policies that provide opportunities and opportunities for the poor. Poverty is considered to be the result of apathy, fatalism, dependency, low self-esteem, wastefulness and consumptiveness as well as a lack of entrepreneurial spirit (Bouzarovski & Petrova, 2015).

Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), it is stated that, in September 2021, the average poor household in Indonesia had 4.79 household members. Thus, the poverty line per household is IDR 1,841,539/household. Regarding the problem of poverty in Indonesia, there is one area in the South Sulawesi Province, more precisely in Bone Regency, which experienced an increase in the poverty index during 2020-2021. Bone Regency is one of the autonomous regions in the province of South Sulawesi, Indonesia. The capital of this district is located in the city of Watampone. Based on data from Bone Regency in 2021 published by the Central Statistics Agency of Bone Regency, the population of Bone Regency in 2021 was 801,775 people, consisting of 391,682 men and 410,093 women. With an area of Bone Regency of around 4,559.00 km², the average population density of Bone Regency is 162 people/km². In Bone Regency, the poverty rate in 2020 increased compared to 2019. The population of Bone Regency based on the 2020 population census data was 801,755 people. There was a slight increase in the poverty rate. In 2019, the poverty percentage in Bone was 10.06 per cent, and in 2020 it became 10.68 per cent or 81 thousand people. The increase was 0.62 per cent of the total population in Bone Regency.

The increase in the number of poverty itself is caused by the spread of the coronavirus. The Covid-19 pandemic or Coronavirus has been declared a national disaster by President Joko Widodo. This pandemic has also had a significant impact on various sectors of life. Even the Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati said that in a very difficult situation, there will be an increase in the number of poverty (Suryahadi et al., 2020). Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, many people are experiencing difficult times. This pandemic has slowly made many people have to work hard to survive. Based on the explanation of the problems above regarding poverty in Bone Regency which has soared and the main factor causing the Covid-19 pandemic, which has caused many people to



lose their livelihoods (Rassanjani et al., 2021). In dealing with the soaring poverty rate, various poverty alleviation programs have been held. Based on this, the Bone Regency Social Service has implemented a program to reduce poverty, the program is like social guidance and assisting, both productive in this case those who are still able to work and consumptive for people who are no longer able to work (Supriatna, 2020).

Previous research related to the role of the government in overcoming poverty problems experienced by the community, which is found in the study (Heryanti, 2019) related to "The Role of the Bone Regency Social Service in Overcoming Poverty (Perspective of Law Number 11 of 2009 Concerning Social Welfare)" and what is different from this study is that it wants to see how the influence of social assistance issued on the survival of the Bone Regency community during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021.

Theoretical Framework

Community Survival

Discussing survival is very identical to the poor community group. This poor condition is a form of the inability of individuals households or communities to meet their minimum needs. Survival strategies for poor communities can be interpreted as the ability to face problems. According to (Albertus et al., 2016), survival is the ability to face problems to survive from economic and non-economic pressures. In line with this, (Norgaard, 2020) said that survival is the ability to maintain life and maintain offspring so that it remains sustainable. The same is expressed by (Trepka et al., 2013) that survival is the ability of living things to maintain their offspring and maintain their lives so that they remain sustainable.

Food Package Assistance

The government has issued policies and programs in anticipation of handling this pandemic, one of which is the social assistance program provided through the leading sector of the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs. One of the programs to increase and reduce poverty rates is the government provides direction so that social assistance and subsidies are distributed non-cash into Food Package Assistance also called the Food Social Assistance Program (PBSP). Food Package Assistance (BPS) is assistance in the form of daily necessities such as rice, oil, eggs, sugar and salt (Terziev et al., 2019). The Basic Food Assistance Program (PBS) is a program previously known as the Non-Cash Food Assistance (BPNT) program. Previously, this program transformed repeatedly, from the Special Market Operation Program (OPK), Rice for the Poor (Raskin), Rice for Prosperous Families (Rastra) and BPNT, with changes in the distribution of assistance which is no longer in the form of rice but into assistance funds that are distributed directly to the accounts of Beneficiary Families (KPM).

The fiscal stimulus policy that has been decided provides a new instrument for the government to minimize the socio-economic impact during the COVID-19 pandemic at the household level. By expanding the participation of the Basic Food Assistance Program, the government is trying to reduce the burden of household expenditure, especially to meet the need for nutritious food. According to (Suci, 2017) the launch of the Basic Food Package Assistance is also inseparable from the government's efforts to improve the quality of community nutrition, especially by reducing the high stunting rate in Indonesia. So that the Ministry of Social Affairs is seen as being able to contribute to the stunting management program.



Direct Cash Assistance

Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) is a government assistance program in the form of providing cash or various other assistance, both conditional and unconditional for the poor (Rulandari et al., 2022). The beginning of the creation of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) by the State of Brazil around the 1990s which was named Bolsa Escola then changed its name to Bolsa Familia. The program is a form of conditional direct cash assistance initiated by Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the 35th president of Brazil. Bolsa Família has two important things: namely helping to reduce current poverty and making families invest in their children, thereby breaking the cycle of intergenerational transmission and reducing poverty in the future. Although relatively modest in terms of resources, when compared to other social programs such as social security, BLT is one of those that has the greatest impact on the lives of millions of low-income people. So that Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) still survives today as the largest conditional direct cash assistance in the world and has succeeded in helping the world's poor.

Family Hope Program

In essence, poverty is closely related to the inability to meet basic needs. Poverty indicates a situation of deprivation that occurs not because it is desired by the poor, but rather because it cannot be avoided. The Family Hope Program (PKH) is a policy formulated by the Government to overcome the problem of poverty in Indonesia (Ode Amijaya Kamalussin et al., n.d.). In general, the concept of the policy itself is closely related to permanent decisions that are consistent with those who make and those who comply with the decision.

The government as the highest authority as a policy maker is needed to solve problems in the public realm. And for that, it is not just about making a program plan but also implementing the program to achieve the planned goals. Therefore, a policy must be implemented so that it has an impact on the desired goals. The Family Hope Program (PKH) is a family-based social protection model. Conceptually, PKH is included in the category of social assistance, namely a social security program in the form of cash, goods, or welfare service benefits that are generally given to vulnerable families who do not have a decent income for humanity.

The Family Hope Program (PKH) itself is a social protection program that provides cash and non-cash assistance to very poor households and members of these families are required to meet and implement the terms and conditions that have been set (Brooks, 2015). Through the Family Hope Program (PKH), it is hoped that poor families will be encouraged to have access to and utilize basic social services for health, education, food, nutrition, care, and assistance, including access to various other social protection programs which are complementary programs on an ongoing basis. In addition, PKH is expected to be a forum for poverty alleviation that will synergize various national social protection and empowerment programs in Indonesia.

Cash Social Assistance

During the global coronavirus pandemic, there are at least two things that countries in the world are facing, namely fighting the virus itself and trying to control the economic crisis at home. In Indonesia itself, through the Ministry of Social Affairs, the government has also issued and implemented a Cash Social Assistance or cash social assistance program. This Cash Social Assistance is assistance in the form of money given to people with the status of poor, underprivileged, or vulnerable families affected by the Covid 19 pandemic (Brooks, 2015). Meanwhile, according to (Power et al., 2023), Cash



Social Assistance (BST) is a government program that aims to help and ease the burden on poor people, and underprivileged families, who are affected by the coronavirus outbreak in Disease 2019, with an assistance amount of IDR 600,000 for each head of family.

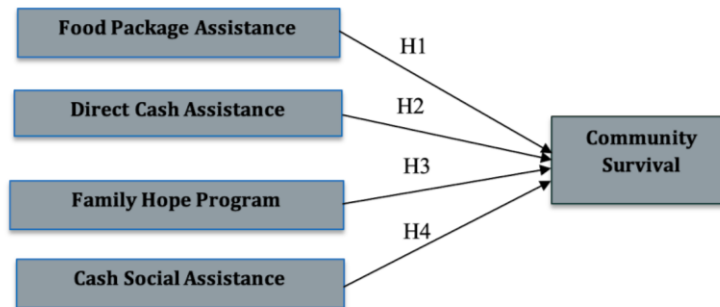


Figure 1. Theoretical Framework

Hypothesis

H1: Basic Food Package Assistance (X1) does not have a significant effect on Community Survival (Y).

H2: Direct Cash Assistance (X2) has a significant effect on Community Survival (Y).

H3: Family Hope Program (X3) has a significant effect on Community Survival (Y).

H4: Cash Social Assistance (X4) has a significant effect on Community Survival (Y).

METHOD

In this study, the primary data model used can be obtained from the results of the questionnaire that has been distributed to respondents, namely the Bone Regency community as recipients of social assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2021. Meanwhile, secondary data was sourced from the Dinassosialbone.com website, online media, literature reviews, journals, print media, books and others. This study uses simple random sampling whose population is from the community that receives social assistance. The main purpose of using sampling is to determine or find people or respondents who receive social assistance from the Bone Regency Social Service in an effort to overcome poverty and survival efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic. The data collection technique used in this study is the use of Google Forms in compiling the questionnaire that will be distributed to respondents. The researcher also used the snowball sampling technique which aims to obtain 1 respondent who can be used with various other names of respondents. In determining the population in this study, the Slovin formula was used with a sample of 51 respondents.

Data processing in this study using SEMpls software aims to test the existence of a correlation between research variables or proof of the hypothesis made by researchers regarding the existence of social assistance for the survival of the Bone Regency community during the Covid-19 pandemic, and regression tests to obtain valid data. The questionnaire value indicators use a Likert scale approach (1. Strongly Disagree, 2. Disagree, 3. Normal, 4. Agree, and 5. Strongly Agree).

Table 1. Operational Definition

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
<i>Community Survival During the Covid 19 Pandemic (Y)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lower-middle-class people are helped with the provision of basic food packages and direct cash assistance; 2. Lower-middle-class people are helped with the provision of basic food packages and direct cash assistance; 3. Can replace people's income lost due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
<i>Social Assistance</i>	
<i>Basic Food Package Assistance (X1)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribution of basic food packages to the community directly; 2. Accuracy of the status of recipients of basic food packages; 3. Distribution of basic food packages is able to meet daily needs.
<i>Direct Cash Assistance (X2)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct cash assistance is distributed to the community directly and correctly; 2. The community's economy is helped; 3. The community's health conditions are helped.
<i>Family Hope Program (X3)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recipients of the Family Hope program are right on target; 2. The health conditions of pregnant women and babies are more guaranteed; 3. Educational facilities are utilized optimally.
<i>Cash Social Assistance (X4)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribution of targeted cash social assistance; 2. The burden of daily community costs is reduced; 3. Cash social assistance is able to meet living needs during the Covid 19 pandemic.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2. Data on Respondents Receiving Social Assistance in Bone Regency

Charateristic	KALIMANTAN	
	Freq	%
Age		
17-27 year	68,6	68,6%
28-38 year	23,5	23,5%
39-49 year	7,8	7,8%
>50 year	-	-
Gender		
Female	60,8	60,8%
Male	39,2	39,2%
Last education		
Elementary School	-	-
Junior High School	9,8	9,8%
Senior High School	41,2	41,2%
Diploma/S1	37,3	37,3%
S2	-	-
Length of Stay in Bone Regency		
1-3 year	20,8	20,8%
4-6 year	-	-
7-9 year	-	-
10-12 year	-	-
13-15 year	-	-
16-18 year	20,8	20,8%
>19 year	47,9	47,9%

Respondents' Demographic Profile (n = 88)

In the demographic profile of respondents in this study, there were more female respondents than male respondents with a percentage comparison of 60.8% compared to 39.2%. Meanwhile, respondents aged 17-27 years dominated 60.6% compared to respondents aged 28-38 years around 23.5% followed by respondents aged 39-49 years as much as 7.8%. In this study, the majority of respondents' educational backgrounds were high school graduates as much as 41.2%, then respondents with a bachelor's degree background around 37.3% and followed by respondents with junior high school education 9.8%. Based on the length of stay of respondents in Bone Regency, is quite diverse, there are 47.9% of them lived in Bone Regency for around 19 years. Meanwhile, there are similarities in the percentage of respondents' length of stay of 1 to 3 years and 16 to 18 years there are 20.8%.



Reliability Test Results

Table 3. Composite Reliability dan Cronbach's Alpha

Construction	Cronbach's Alpha	Rho_A	Composite Reliability	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)	
Basic Food Package Assistance	0.590	0.959	0.018	0.236	Reliable
Direct Cash Assistance	0.604	0.621	0.787	0.554	Reliable
Cash Social Assistance	0.702	0.764	0.832	0.628	Reliable
Community Survival	0.886	0.901	0.931	0.818	Reliable
Family Hope Program	0.833	0.871	0.899	0.748	Reliable

Source: Processed from primary data, 2022

The Composite Reliability and Cronbach's Alpha Examination Result Data in Table 3 above show reliable results. Although the value of the Basic Food Package Assistance Variable is 0.603 and is red, the problem can still be considered reliable. This is reinforced by Nunnally (1967) and Hinkle (2004) who said that in social research, Cronbach Alpha with the value of each variable reaching >0.60 indicates that the construct or variable can be relied on (Susanto et al., 2019). In addition, (Suyudi et al., 2020) also explains that in a research construct, it can be said to be reliable if Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability scores reach a minimum of 0.60. The Community Survival variable has the largest Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.886 and the largest Composite Reliability with a total of 0.931. In addition, the lowest variable is Basic Food Package Assistance with a value of 0.590 and a Composite Reliability of 0.236. From the results of the explanation regarding the reliability test which obtained the highest and lowest values of not less than 0.60, it can be concluded that each variable in this study has good reliability.

Regression Analysis

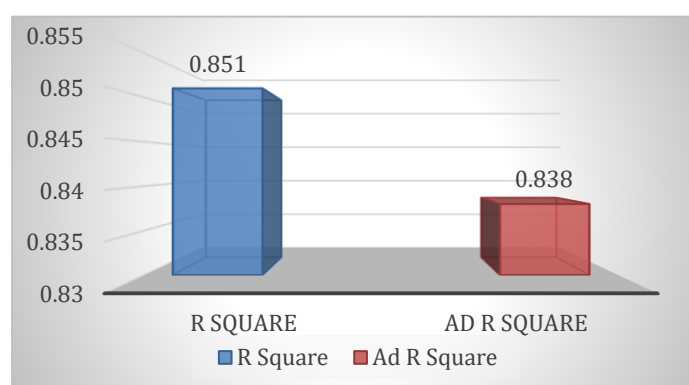


Figure 2. Community Survival Regression Results

Source: Processed from primary data, 2022

In Figure 2, the R-Square diagram above shows that the output of Community Survival (KHM) explains Direct Cash Assistance (BLT), Basic Food Package Assistance (BPS), Cash Social Assistance (BST), and finally the Family Hope Program (PKH) of 0.851. Based on the results of the presentation of these values, it can be concluded that the interpretation of Community Survival is 0.838%. The R-square structural model in the identification process has three scales, namely 19% -33% (weak/moderate), 33% -67% (moderate), and > 67% (strong/good/substantial). If you look at the interpretation results of the regression results and R-Square on the Community Survival variable above, the scale obtained is in the strong or good category. So it can be said that from the results of the regression test, the independent variable has a moderate impact on the dependent variable.

Hypothesis Testing

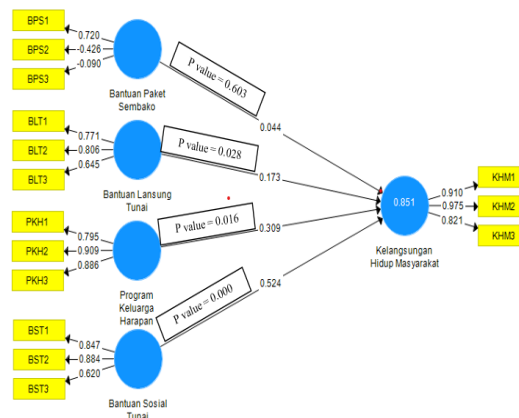


Figure 3. Validated Research Model

Source: Processed from primary data, 2022

Based on Figure 3 above, the independent and dependent variables have undergone hypothesis testing using the bootstrapping method on SmartPLS software with the aim of knowing the validity and reliability of the data in the study. This test uses T-Statistics and P-values which will later be presented in the form of a t-table. (Nurjanah et al., 2022) explained that to find valid research data the T-statistic value, namely > 1.96 and the P-value < 0.05. The following is a t-table of the results of the hypothesis test on the Effect of Social Assistance on Community Survival during the COVID-19 pandemic, a Case Study of Bone Regency during 2019-2021.

Table 3. Hypothesis Test of Social Assistance Recipients

Variable	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	STDEV	T-Statistics (O/STDEV)	P value	Hipotesis
Basic Food Package Assistance	0.044	0.070	0.084	0.521	0.603	Ignore
Direct Cash Assistance	0.173	0.177	0.078	2.208	0.028	Accepted
Cash Social Assistance	0.524	0.563	0.137	3.837	0.000	Accepted
Community Survival	0.309	-0.278	0.128	2.422	0.016	Accepted

Source: Processed from primary data, 2022

Hypothesis of Basic Food Package Assistance (BPS) – Community Survival (KHM)

Through the second table above, the hypothesis of Basic Food Package Assistance (BPS) on Community Survival (KHM) with a T-statistic value of 0.521 shows that the T-statistic results do not cover >1.96. While the P-value of 0.603 does not cover the standard P-value of <0.05. Therefore it can be interpreted that Basic Food Package Assistance does not have a significant direct influence on Community Survival in Bone Regency.

Hypothesis of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) – Community Survival (KHM)

In the table above, the hypothesis of Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) on Community Survival (KHM) has a T-statistic value of 2.208, where this value shows that the T-statistic results cover >1.96. Meanwhile, the P-value is 0.028 which is smaller than the standard category value of P-values, which is <0.05. This means that it can be said that Direct Cash Assistance has a significant influence on Community Survival.

Cash Social Assistance (BST) - Community Survival (KHM)

Based on the third hypothesis, it states that Cash Social Assistance (BST) has a significant influence or is positively received on the Community Survival (KHM) of Bone Regency during the Covid-19 pandemic. This can be seen based on data showing that the T-statistic value is 3,837 and the P-value is 0.000, which means that it has an influence that has an influence on Community Survival.

Family Hope Program (PKH) - Community Survival (PKH)

Through the table above, the hypothesis of the Family Hope Program (PKH) on Community Survival (PKH) has a T-statistic value of 2,422. The value shows that the T-statistic results include >1.96. The P-value is 0.016 which is smaller than the standard category value of P-values, which is <0.05. This means that the Family Hope Program (PKH) on Community Survival (PKH).



Discussion

In this study, empirical testing was carried out using the variables Direct Cash Assistance, Basic Food Package Assistance, Family Hope Program, and Cash Social Assistance in Community Survival during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the first variable, namely, Direct Cash Assistance, where the main purpose of this social assistance is to respond to the increase in fuel prices and to help the poor meet their daily needs. The results of the study found that there was a major influence of Direct Cash Assistance on community survival, this was proven based on the results of respondent data, most of whom felt helped by this program. For them, direct cash assistance plays a very important role in meeting their daily needs during the Covid 19 pandemic, although some of the community feel that this direct cash assistance is still lacking and has not been able to fully cover their needs. Meanwhile, in the Basic Food Package Assistance variable, which has also been empirically tested, it was found that this variable does not have a significant influence on community survival. This is proven through the results of the questionnaire distribution data where respondents who took the questionnaire survey chose that this type of social assistance was not yet able to meet the daily needs of the community. It is not without reason because some people feel that this type of assistance is only able to meet their needs in a short time or a few weeks, and not only that, the unevenness and inaccuracy of targeting in the distribution of basic food packages are considered to be the main causes of this program not running well.

Furthermore, the Family Hope Program variable which has also been empirically tested was found to have a significant influence on the survival of the community during the Covid-19 pandemic, as evidenced by data from respondents who took part in the questionnaire survey choosing that the distribution of assistance in this program is very helpful for the survival of the community. The provision of assistance that is distributed in each certain period to people who have registered according to the criteria will receive assistance in the form of funds and be given access to utilize basic social services for health, nutrition, education, food and care assistance.

After that, according to the data that has been obtained through the hypothesis that has been made in this study and its suitability has been proven, the Cash Social Assistance variable is one of the factors that influences the survival of the community during the Covid 19 pandemic. Cash social assistance provided by the government which is intended for families receiving benefits from the non-PKH basic food program is IDR. 500,000, and channelled directly into the beneficiary's account at the designated Bank. This is reinforced by the results of the questionnaire distribution where respondents felt that Cash Social Assistance was distributed right on target and this type of social assistance was able to meet the daily needs of the underprivileged community.

Conclusion

From the results of data analysis on the four variables that have been carried out, it can be concluded that there are several variables that are accepted (Significantly Influential), namely the Direct Cash Assistance variable (X2), the Family Hope Program (X3), and the Cash Social Assistance variable (X4) have positive values or have an effect on the survival of the Bone Regency community during the Covid 19 pandemic. One of them is rejected (No Significant Effect) on the survival of the Bone Regency community during the Covid-19 pandemic, namely the Food Package Assistance variable (X1). Furthermore, based on the R-Square value, the output of Community Survival (KHM) explains the Food Package Assistance (BPS), Direct Cash Assistance (BLT), Family Hope Program (PKH), Cash Social Assistance (BST) of 0.851. So, through this statement, it can



be concluded that the interpretation of Community Survival is 0.851%. This study has several limitations such as the number of respondents is not that many. This is because the area that is the focus of the study only covers one district. Furthermore, there are time constraints in collecting questionnaires and the possibility that there are several similar statements from various variables or even inconsistent with what is felt by the community as recipients of social assistance. Suggestions that can be given for further research are that it is highly expected to use different methods so that they can be compared with other methods. Furthermore, it is hoped that further research can reach a larger population and use different sampling techniques from the research that has been conducted.

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