The Relationship of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, Local Government, and the Banking Sector in the Implementation of Economic Development Policies in the Era of the Covid-19 Pandemic

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The Relationship of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, Local Government, and the Banking Sector in the Implementation of Economic Development Policies in the Era of the Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

This study attempts to evaluate the extent of the relationship between small, micro and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and the banking sector in executing economic development strategies in the Covid-19 epidemic era. A qualitative method using a case study approach is utilized to see the link between MSMEs and the banking sector in this study. The research was done in Palembang City with informants from Rural Banks (BPR), Palembang City Government, and MSME actors who issued loans to BPRs. This study indicates that there is a good interaction between BPR, Palembang City Government, and MSME actors in executing economic development strategies in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic. The assistance given by BPR and the City Government can allow MSMEs to tackle numerous challenges in the middle of a pandemic. Previous study has not often explored the interaction between the three stakeholders (MSMEs, Regional Governments, and the Banking Sector) in economic recovery in the age of the Covid-19 epidemic. Whereas the support offered to MSMEs might stimulate economic activity in a region.

Keywords: Micro Small and Medium Enterprises; Local Government; Bank Perkreditan Rakyat; Economic Recovery; Covid-19.

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INTRODUCTION

The banking sector has a strategically important role in financing productive business activities with the aim of encouraging growth and development of the national economy (Adebola et al., 2021; Jili et al., 2017). Economic activity is one of the factors that will determine the success or failure of national development because the economy is the backbone of national development (Quan et al., 2018). In order to realize this, it is very necessary to improve the national banking system in stages and comprehensively. The emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic has affected various sectors in the world, such as the Economy and Education (Hopman et al., 2020). The Covid-19 pandemic has affected every part of economic activity, from business to banking (Behzadifar et al., 2020). The business sector has lost consumer purchasing power due to the pandemic while banks are also facing various problems such as unpaid credit bills due to problems faced by their clients during the pandemic (Adebola et al., 2021; Saturwa et al., 2021). Of course, this problem is also experienced by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) which of course are greatly affected in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic (García-Vidal et al., 2020; Zeidy, 2020).

In fact, MSMEs are considered to have an essential role in economic growth in various sectors, especially related to the case of economic recovery in the current Covid-19 era (Hassan Dauda Yahara, 2016; Oni, 2012). The development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises itself is indeed the main focus in various countries, especially countries that provide great opportunities for the sector to contribute to economic growth and countries that have special attention on the entrepreneurship sector (Akinyemi & Adejumo, 2018; Aklahel et al., 2015). However, the role of MSMEs must of course be supported by the government and other economic sectors in

order to grow and contribute in the pandemic era. Banking is an important part that can support the growth of MSMEs so that they can develop, especially when facing crisis problems in the midst of a pandemic. One manifestation of the role of the bank as a financial institution is to channel funds to the public or business owners in the form of providing credit. Credit provided by banks is based on the principle of trust so that the provision of credit is giving trust to customers (Ibrahim, 2004). The provision of credit by banks is intended as one of the bank's efforts to earn profits, so the bank only forwards public deposits to its customers in the form of credit. Banking transactions in the field of credit provide a role for the bank as a provider of funds and for customers as debtors. The form can be in the form of loans such as investment loans, working capital loans, small business loans and other types of credit according to the needs of customers and debtors.

The problem is that banks are also facing difficulties during the Covid-19 pandemic. Several credit cases that have been running have experienced delays in payment because the economic capacity of the people who make loans is also getting weaker. Rural Banks (BPRs) as banks that have the task of providing business capital loans for MSMEs also then face a dilemma because of considerations such as people's purchasing power in the pandemic era. Before the pandemic, from 2017 to 2018 the credit program organized by BPR and the Palembang City Government went well. Based on data from the Palembang City BPR, in 2017 the number of debtors reached 944 NOA (number of accounts) and those who made payments in accordance with the specified time period were 894 NOA. Furthermore, in 2018 the number of debtors increased to 1466 NOA with a settlement of 1,249. The peak of the problem occurred in 2020 in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic, where debtors

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amounted to 803 NOA and only 4 NOA paid off. Of the total loan of Rp. 2,409,000,000, the repayment of which payments in 2020 only reached Rp. 12,000,000 only. The same thing happened in the previous year, where the loan amount in 2018 reached Rp. 12,060,000,000 and repayment is only at Rp. 7,632,000,000. These problems certainly have a significant impact on BPR.

The banking sector (especially banks such as BPR) does have the main task of providing financing for productive business activities, as the banking sector has a strategic role in the national economy (Albina & Sergey, 2017; Ben Jedidia Khoutem, 2014; Cao & Ding, 2020; Cull et al. ., 2018; Dadzie et al., 2013; Migdad, 2017). However, unexpected conditions such as a pandemic, of course, raise its own problems in paying off the financing. This study then wants to see the extent of activities and interactions between BPRs and SMEs in the current Covid-19 pandemic era. What problems are faced by BPRs and MSMEs in dealing with Covid-19 and what challenges must be faced. Research like this has not been often done by previous researchers, especially in cases that occurred in Indonesia. Previous studies usually only discussed the contribution of MSMEs in improving the economy, without explaining in depth the challenges faced by these MSMEs, especially in the era of pandemics such as Covid-19 (Adebola et al., 2021; Jili et al., 2017; Ndayizigamiye, 2014).; Sarango-Lalangui et al., 2018). This researcher will also evaluate the programs implemented by BPR, especially business loans to MSMEs in Palembang.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research is a research that aims to build propositions and hypotheses, so it uses a qualitative approach with the consideration that the researcher intends to gain an in-depth understanding of the evaluation of credit program implementation in relation to lending at BPR. It is said to use a qualitative approach, because the nature of the data or the type of information collected is qualitative in nature which aims to describe certain circumstances, which are described in separate words or sentences to obtain conclusions (Creswell, 2012).

According to Craswell, qualitative research aims to bring a researcher as close as possible to the research subject or the participants (informants) being studied. Qualitative research also represents a valid form of exploration of the social sciences and humanities, without having to be compared with quantitative research (Creswell, 2013). According to Denzin & Lincoln qualitative research consists of a series of practices that include field notes, interviews, conversations, photographs, recordings, and personal notes with the aim of interpreting a particular problem. Qualitative in other words, using a naturalistic interpretive approach to a problem. This means that qualitative researchers study objects in their natural environment, trying to interpret and interpret phenomena from the perspective of society and other participants to researchers (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011).

The research was designed into 2 stages, the first stage was to achieve the objectives, the data were obtained through direct observation, documentation and indepth interviews. With regard to the types and sources of data as well as the research objectives, the informant selection technique was carried out by means of snowball sampling, namely informants were selected in turns to show the level of information saturation. In other words, the number of informants and extracting information is considered sufficient if by adding information only the same information is obtained, because the information is already saturated (Muhajir, 2000:25). As a complement, several recording devices were used, such as tape recorders and cameras. Documentation on credit is obtained through existing data. In addition, in-depth, open and unstructured

interviews were conducted with credit stakeholders. This interview prioritizes the views and opinions of the informants and research subjects.

While the second stage, used to achieve the goal of looking for alternative designs. For this purpose, the preparation of the design and its accessories was asked for opinions from each expert, both in the field of economic policy and public policy. The opinion can be in the form of input, suggestions and criticism, in which the activity is called evaluation. The research itself is carried out through a case study approach that will be carried out in Palembang City, South Sumatra Province, Indonesia. The interaction between BPR and MSME owners (creditors) will be seen in this case through direct interviews with two parties (in depth interviews) with nonstandardized interview techniques. nonstandardized interview techniques according to Harrison (2001; in Sugiyono, 2015) are interviews conducted in the form of conversations that are allowed to flow freely, but still pay attention to the quality of interaction between informants and researchers without deviating from the research problem being studied (Aidememoire). This research uses purposive sampling method in selecting informants. The meaning of purposive sampling is to choose sources intentionally accompanied by certain considerations, especially in this case are the parties involved in MSME development activities through BPR business loans.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of research conducted by researchers seem to support statements from several previous studies, where the Covid-19 pandemic has seriously hampered the growth of MSMEs (García-Vidal et al., 2020; Pedauga et al., 2021; Zeidy, 2020). One of the informants from the BPR stated that there were obstacles from the MSMEs during the Covid-19 pandemic, this was seen from the delayed collection in several cases and the increase in loan applications due to urgent needs.

"Many were delayed due to the impact of the pandemic (collection), but many also applied for loans due to conditions of urgent need. So, on the one hand, the collection is reduced, but on the other hand, the loan application is increasing because of the need. This really has an impact on SMEs because they are small businesses" (Interview with Informants from the Palembang City BPKAD, on November 23, 2021 at 08.03)

The problems faced by several MSMEs during the Covid-19 pandemic did make their situation difficult, even in some cases the MSMEs had to close due to the absence of profitable income. BPRs that provide subsidized loans to MSMEs also face difficulties because the bill for payment of these subsidies to the government continues to swell. In fact, according to informants from the BPR and BPKAD of Palembang City, the BPR payment bill to the Palembang City Government reached 1 billion Rupiah. One of the reasons for the swelling of the bill was due to loan applications that continued to grow in the Covid-19 era. MSMEs that are experiencing difficulties when facing a pandemic must try their best to survive and not go out of business. Loans to rural banks are one of the ways that SMEs can survive in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, the high number of loan applications is not accompanied by timely payment of credit bills. The presence of BPR as a bank that helps people's businesses is undeniably very helpful for MSMEs in "minimizing" their potential internal problems. Moreover, these loans receive subsidies from the government, so that MSME actors get low interest (even 0%) and relief in every process.

The budget for MSME subsidies has indeed been prepared by each local government. In the case that occurred in

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Palembang City, Bank BPR submitted a loan subsidy budget to the Regional Government, then the subsidy burden to be budgeted was verified by the cooperative office. After being verified by the cooperative office, the proposal bill was submitted to the APD team (local government budget) to budget for the amount of subsidies to be paid. After the budget is approved, MSMEs can then make loans to BPRs with the provisions in accordance with Mayor Regulation No. 52 of 2018 concerning Procedures for Providing Working Capital Strengthening Loans for Small and Micro Enterprises. Each MSME has a maximum loan amount of 10 million rupiah. The loans provided can be used to develop their own business and make the best use of it for business needs. Previously, the number of borrowers did not always increase every month, but after the Covid-19 pandemic, loans increased every month. This shows that the pandemic has in fact really affected the management of MSMEs in Indonesia, especially in this case in the city of Palembang.

On the other hand, local governments are also facing a dilemma in paying off MSME subsidies because there are other priorities amid the pandemic. After the pandemic Covid-19 occurred. the Government of Indonesia made policies in various sectors known as the National Economic Recovery Policy (Abidin, 2021). The National Economic Recovery Program (PEN) is regulated in Law Number 1 of 2020 concerning State Financial Policy and Financial System Stability for Handling the 2019 Corona Virus Disease (Covid-l9) Pandemic and Presidential Regulation Number 72 of 2020 which regulates changes in the posture of the State Budget in the face of the Covid Pandemic. -19. One of PEN's goals is to protect, maintain and improve the ability of business actors to run their business during the Covid-19 pandemic. Although the development of MSMEs is also a concern in national economic recovery activities, several other

activities also need to be carried out by the central and regional governments with the aim of overall economic recovery. A source from the regional government also said that the government's priorities are currently divided because they have to solve various problems in the midst of the pandemic. Even so, in the case that occurred in the city of Palembang, the government of the city of Palembang continued to make every effort to settle the subsidy bill billed by the BPR. Until the time this research was conducted, BPRs had also not complained about the delay in payments made by the Palembang City Government. Even so, it cannot be denied that these problems must be resolved, local governments must take into account their budgets and the activities to be implemented, so that local governments can pay off subsidy payments to BPRs properly.

Apart from that, it is undeniable that every MSME that applies for a loan to a BPR considers the loan to be able to help them face various problems in the era of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The weak purchasing power of the market in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted the income of each of these MSMEs. Several MSME actors who were resource persons in this study also claimed to have received various benefits from loans provided by BPR. They can solve problems such as operational costs and so on, some even use the funds to innovate in their business, so that later their business becomes more attractive. The requirements to make a loan are also not too difficult, MSME owners only need to prepare several supporting documents to apply for a loan. These documents include Family Cards, Identity Cards and Business Certificates from the local kelurahan. During the pandemic, these conditions have not changed and are still in accordance with what was previously determined in Palembang Mayor Regulation No. 52 Year 2018.

After the MSME actors have provided all of these requirements, the BPR will offer

them a loan. The offer varies, depending on the ability of each business owned, usually in the range of 3-10 million rupiah. Each MSME owner is also given a very light installment load with 0% interest, the installment load varies from 250-400 thousand rupiah. After the installments are paid off and if the trend of payments from creditors is good, then they can make loans again with increasing loan numbers. During a pandemic like this, the ease of lending is of course very easy for every MSME who wants to solve their internal problems. It is not surprising that loans submitted by MSMEs have indeed increased in this pandemic era.

"There wasn't that time. There isn't that yet. Yesterday, we discussed with the BPR that there is no other way that is quite easier so that we don't go too far because it was a roundabout time, so in the end there is no provision for now, but what will we do to improve the plan for payments, he said. One of them was previously through a virtual account at a mini market, but it seems that at this time it is not possible" (Interview with Informant G, Laundry Business Actor and BPR Program Debtor, on December 15, 2021 at 19.02)

There were several previous inputs from MSME actors who made loans to BPRs. During the pandemic era. the implementation of restrictions on community activities occurred in several areas, including in the city of Palembang. Previously, installment payments according to creditors could only be paid at BPR Banks, this was considered difficult for them because after the implementation of these activity restrictions, services were also increasingly limited, so often they could not make installment payments on that day because they ran out of service quota. In addition, some MSME owners also have houses that are quite far from BPR Banks and other activities on weekdays, so they often cannot pay the installments on time. In fact, according to the sources of this

research, all of them have allocated a certain amount of money at the beginning of each month to make payments to the BPR.

This problem has actually been considered by the BPR where, as stated in the previous quote, BPR provides other access to make payments. Payments can be made through ATMs or minimarkets around the creditor's house. However, the possibility of socialization related to this is still not given well. This can be seen from the lack of understanding of MSME owners regarding the existence of this policy. Even though this policy is a good policy and makes it easier for them to make payments regularly and on time. Therefore, socialization related to BPR policies (including other policies in the midst of a pandemic) should be carried out more massively. So that the community/loan actors can understand this and be well educated.

As previously explained, the Covid-19 pandemic has indeed affected the business activities of every MSME that was the resource person in this study. Even so, every business owner admitted that they received various assistance from the government to develop their business. The assistance is not only loan assistance provided by BPR, but also assistance from other government activities, including one of them is the national economic recovery program. The informants from MSMEs admitted that they often used the assistance to develop their businesses and pay their installments to BPRs. Thus, MSMEs in the Covid-19 era are indeed being pushed to continue to develop and innovate. This support can be seen from the various assistance provided to MSMEs during the pandemic, with the hope that MSMEs can contribute to restoring the national economy in Indonesia.

MSMEs who were resource persons in this study also said that they had succeeded in developing their businesses, ranging

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from innovation to creating jobs for people in their area. This is recognized thanks to the various assistance provided by the government as well as BPR loans which greatly facilitated them to develop their businesses. MSME actors also admitted that they previously often received business development training which really helped MSME actors to become more innovative and develop their businesses according to the times. Some cases, for example, are developing their businesses through digital platforms, so that they do not have customers from residents around their homes, but have spread to several regions in Indonesia.

In the case that occurred in the city of Palembang, we can see that the government and the banking sector (BPR) have helped encourage MSMEs in the city of Palembang to continue to develop in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic. Various assistance and waivers provided by the Regional Government and the Banking Sector have helped MSMEs in the region to survive and thrive in the midst of the pandemic. In addition, the development of MSMEs in the regions besides helping economic growth also helps create jobs for various people who have lost their jobs in the midst of the pandemic. According to an informant who is an MSME actor, he currently employs approximately 10 people, these workers actually increased in the pandemic era because his business continued to grow after receiving assistance and various programs from the government and the banking sector. Therefore, a fairly good relationship is shown between the Regional Government, the Banking Sector, and MSMEs in the city of Palembang.

CONCLUSION

From the results of this study, we can see that the implementation of the MSME credit program implemented by BPR went quite well, from the planning stage to the program implementation. Apart from several things that need to be evaluated by BPRs, such as the socialization of policies for implementing credit payments, BPR's performance in helping MSMEs deal with Covid-19 has been very good. This is also shown by the ease of borrowing which does not add any post-Covid conditions, besides that it can also be seen from the growth of MSMEs that are helped due to loans provided by the BPR. Therefore, the relationship between MSMEs and BPRs in this case has a positive relationship in economic development in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic as evidenced by the business development of MSME actors after the lending provided by the BPR.

In the implementation of the credit policy itself, vertical communication between the BPR and the Regional Government has been quite positive, seen from the budgeting and payment processes that show good communication between the two parties. At the planning stage, the BPR involves the Cooperative Office to calculate the feasibility of submitting a subsidy budget every year. While at the implementation stage, BPRs also provide detailed subsidy details to the Regional Government for submission of subsidv payments. The only thing that needs to be emphasized is the provision for payment of regional government subsidies in the current Covid-19 era, given the focus of the regional government which is divided into several other Covid-19 pandemic prevention programs. In terms of credit facilities themselves, BPRs have given good trust to local governments and creditors. This can be seen from the various waivers and facilities provided by BPRs in the process of implementing business loan policies to MSMEs. This convenience of course also pays attention to strict procedures and monitoring from BPRs, so that various problems can at least be avoided by BPRs in the current pandemic era.

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