

Group Communication in The Brigade Joxzin Community Organization in Maintaining Group Cohesivity During The COVID-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

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This research was reduced to the form of group communication found in the Brigade Joxzin group during the Covid pandemic, which was a forum for sympathizers of the Partai Persatuan Pembangunan (PPP). During its establishment, members of the Brigade Joxzin experienced an increase in the number of members and have survived to this day. This study uses a descriptive qualitative research method. The data collection techniques used are interviews, observation, and documentation. After obtaining the required data, the researcher will analyze the data by carrying out the process of collecting data, reducing data, and then conducting discussions to get the conclusions needed. The results of this study prove that the form of group communication within the Brigade Joxzin group during the Covid pandemic still worked as it should. The relationship between members feels close to each other like family, and all members contribute significantly; interactions are often carried out both online and offline, social media is always used actively, and personal chat is usually established. The topics discussed at the meeting are also private. When a new member is considered like a new family, internal and external activities are carried out together, using community attributes and solving internal problems. When there are threats from outside, together will resolve either in the family or even brought to justice.

1. Introduction

The corona pandemic outbreak in early 2020 reduced community group activities or activities. The government has also advised people to stay at home to minimize the spread of the coronavirus. This policy also limits certain groups of people. According to (Sari, Siti Maya, at all., 2021: 417), this pandemic period has changed how people work, socialize, and community associations in holding an event that initially involved gatherings in large numbers.

According to Buana (Putri, 2020, p. 706), this step is meant to break the chain of the Covid-19 pandemic, which requires people to maintain a safe distance from others and avoid mass gatherings. This pandemic has changed how people work and socialize and the group meetings that usually hold and run events. Before the pandemic, people hosted events that included many group gatherings, but now they cannot. Social communication in society is different from what it used to be because there are limited health protocol rules and other rules, so people prefer social media.

Community organizations, commonly called mass organizations, are voluntarily established and formed to participate in the development of the community based on similar aspirations, desires, needs, interests, activities, and goals to achieve state goals. Community organization is one of the essential factors in its existence to realize democracy.

According to (Subandi, at all., 2021: 2), in the political realm, mass organizations have aims and objectives in the social and social spheres aimed at gaining recognition in the social and political

space. The researcher takes the Special Region of Yogyakarta as the object because the Partai Persatuan Pembangunan (PPP) in Yogyakarta has many loyal and militant paramilitary groups.

Many community groups in Indonesia have felt the impact of the co-19 pandemic, and the effect can be felt both within groups and outside community groups. Their activities are different from before the Covid-19 pandemic. However, when a group uses cohesiveness as a benchmark for its group, it can be ensured that even if they face problems, the group will not be divided.

The militant community organization under the auspices of the PPP in Yogyakarta that is to be the focus of the research is the Brigade Joxzin. The Brigade Joxzin was generally formed as a PPP political instrument in the majority of votes in elections. Joxzin originally (1985) meant "Pojo Benzin" during the old Joxzin gang era. The meaning of the word was that the Kauman children hung out in the corner of the square.

The current name for Joxzin is "Jogjakarta Islamic Never Die." This is the official name for mass mobilization for PPP social and political activities. The Brigade Joxzin community organization has approximately 7,000 members, formed independently through data collection on membership cards. The membership card is proof of its readiness to join in the success of the PPP vote in every election.

Apart from that, the current pandemic certainly impacts all lines, including relations between members of the Brigade Joxzin group. Based on the table data above, they are still united during the pandemic, with evidence that they still maintain online friendships through their groups and prioritize face-to-face meetings even with the applicable health protocol. They are even able to collect personal funds for social activities.

Research on cohesiveness has also been done before. Andi Muhammad Adil (2018) carried out these three previous studies with the title Jogjakarta Regional Inter Club Indonesia Group Communication in Forming Cohesiveness. Research from Deva Egi Irawati Panggabean (2017) entitled Punk Group Cohesiveness (Case Study of the Surabaya Muslim Punk Community). The third study, according to M. Bintang Bimantara (2017), with the title Mataram Scooter Club Group Cohesiveness in Yogyakarta in 2016-2017.

The difference between this research and previous researchers lies in the group the author studied, the community organizing group Brigade Joxzin maintaining group cohesiveness during the 2019 covid pandemic. The author's interest in this group has persisted even during the pandemic.

2. Method

The type of research used in this research is descriptive research with qualitative methods. Qualitative methods aim to explain phenomena as profoundly as possible through in-depth data collection. This study did not consider the significance of population size or sampling. This study emphasizes data depth, not the amount of data (Kriyantono, 2010, p. 57).

In qualitative research, data collection methods are based on primary data sources in natural conditions, focusing on participant observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation (Sugiyono, 2011, p. 225).

Triangulation of sources, namely comparisons by examining the degree of trustworthiness of information obtained through different times and instruments in qualitative research, according to Patton (in Moleong, 2014: 330). The source triangulation technique that the researcher will use is to compare the results of interviews with different informants or sources to verify the truth of the information.

3. Result and Discussion

Researchers will discuss the data that researchers collected from interviews with administrators and members of the Brigade Joxzin. This data includes informants' information, observations, and documentation related to this study, as for the seven informants taken by researchers: RA, AN, HK, RD, PR, AC, and BA. This time, the data will be examined regarding group communication in the community organization Brigade Joxzin in maintaining group cohesiveness during the 2019 covid pandemic.

3.1. Communication Media that Supports Group Cohesiveness

According to (Watie, 2016), social media communication can be broken down into four different levels: intrapersonal communication, interpersonal communication, group communication, and public communication. On social media, communication cannot be interactive if there are parties who do not contribute to the ongoing conversation. When this happens, one-way communication occurs because the party with the account only provides information.

To what the HK informant conveyed during the interview, the Brigade Joxzin has two online and offline communications. During the Covid pandemic, it was carried out online via the WhatsApp group to keep in touch with fellow members.

3.2. Proximity Between Members during the Pandemic

The togetherness within this group is visible and has been closely intertwined with the Brigade Joxzin group. Most Brigade Joxzin members think of other Brigade Joxzin members as family members, more than just fellow group members who share the same goals. All informants mentioned that other Brigade Joxzin were treated like family members, so they felt happy when they met other members of the Brigade Joxzin.

According to (Tutiasri, 2016, p. 82), groups need to communicate to support the group's cohesiveness. Why is group communication important in human life groups are an integral part of our daily activities. In addition, groups allow us to share information, experiences, and knowledge with other members. Group communication can be a powerful tool for uniting members and forming influential groups.

3.3. Forms of Concern in the Group

Group communication is the concept of a group that has characteristics such as two or more people. There is an interaction between members, goals, or objectives, and has a structure and pattern of relationships between members, which means there are roles, norms, and relationships between members. Members provide the needs of members, and the group is one unit, Hariadi (in Tutiasri, 2016: 84). This can be seen in the Brigade Joxzin group, where each member is sensitive to other members. The excellent relationship given by each of these members can bring out a caring attitude towards the condition of the members.

3.4. Routine Meetings During the Covid Pandemic

The interaction in the Brigade Joxzin was a form of group communication. The Brigade Joxzin group has many goals, and communication is essential to make them happen. The existence of this pandemic requires people to interact more online, through existing social media platforms, from their respective homes. However, the interactions that occur online need to cover the effectiveness of the interactions themselves. Whatever the form of communication, whether online or offline, effective communication can still be established.

3.5. Efforts Made to Get to Know Each Other Members

Communication is divided into two types: Micro Group and Macro Group. The Brigade Joxzin has implemented both. Micro Groups are implemented in every regional coordination in DIY to introduce members to one another through the existing mandatory monthly agenda. At the same time, Macro Groups are carried out when significant activities such as campaigns take place (Nurdin, 2014: 8).

The established activities are only sometimes formal but are also relaxed, such as joint sports. The effort to get to know the members of the Brigade Joxzin is by providing communication media on WhatsApp, namely the availability of WhatsApp groups where the group is divided into two, namely WhatsApp groups containing seniors and juniors.

3.6. Overcoming the Problem Internal Brigade Joxzin

Communication is the key to someone's success when in a relationship with anyone, spouse, family, friends, business or business partners, superiors, subordinates, professionals, clients, etc. (Jatnika, 2019: 1). When members of the Brigade Joxzin gather, they do not just gather together. However, in each association, they feel a pleasant bond with other members by overcoming existing problems.

The HK informant also said from the interview results that all problems within the Brigade Joxzin would be discussed beforehand, considering that this group applies the principle of kinship.

3.7. Addressing Problems from Outside the Group

Baron and Byrne (in Setyawan et al., 2017) also explained that one of the ways for a group to become more cohesive is when there is an external threat. Group members may encounter external competitive threats, motivating them to remain in the group. This was monitored based on interviews with the AC informant, who explained that if there is a threat from outside, Brigade Joxzin will work together to communicate a solution. There should not be a unilateral decision.

3.8. Forms of Defense When a Good Name is Tarnished

Most research shows that groups tend to have stronger bonds if outsiders threaten them, Robbins (Muniroh, 2013, p. 6). When some other groups or individuals discredited the Joxzin Brigade, the RA informant said that they would look for and communicate the intent and purpose of why this happened. According to (Pardede et al., 2016), defamation is very closely related to the word insult, which in turn has the meaning of an act that attacks a person's good name and honor.

3.9. Acceptance of New Members

People can use communication to ensure that their social group is accepted or not excluded or to understand and fulfill the interests of others. A person's ability to communicate starts from his knowledge and experience, Sumadiria (in Jatnika, 2019: 1). The AC informant explained that his approach to welcoming new members was to be open and friendly, mingle and get to know them, and remain flexible so that everyone felt comfortable.

3.10. Charisma Leader

Factors affecting cohesion within a group, according to Gibson (in Jatnika, 2019: 107), is a group that has a charismatic leader. As a junior member, the BA informant explained that the Brigade Joxzin commander could mingle with senior and junior members. A group's division of tasks and positions is not meant to differentiate between communication processes and relationships. By dividing the work among group members, everyone is expected to be aware of their responsibilities.

4. Conclusion

The relationship within the Brigade Joxzin during the covid pandemic was very close because it involved feelings and treated one another like brothers. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, members in the group were intense with one another in terms of concern, asking about the situation and news. Almost every day for the Brigade Joxzin, the intensity center meets more frequently, and once a month, a regular meeting is held for each regional coordination. The dominant media used by all members of the Brigade Joxzin every day, namely WhatsApp via private chats or with group groups.

The Brigade Joxzin tries to maintain decency and improve itself by holding social events to help each other in need and to introduce to the public that the Brigade Joxzin group is not a criminal group and highly upholds the slogan "Joxzin Anti-Drugs."

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