

## **Altruism: A Study of the Form of Mechanical Solidarity of Urban Communities in Denpasar City**

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**Abstract:** *The study tries to lift the other side of the discovery that has been made is the functionalism of conflicts from the COVID-19 pandemic, one of which is the emergence of mechanical solidarity in urban society. The purpose of this research is to find what kind of behavior changes that occur in urban communities which resulted in the appearance of mechanical solidarity. Method Qualitative research is considered the most appropriate in solving this problem by collecting data in the form of observations, interviews, and photos. Based on the results in the field, it can be found that there is a transformation of urban society behavior from individualism to altruism as evidenced by society food sharing, information about covid recovery, mutual assistance between medical personnels, and societal cooperation in terms of social control of the covid-19 hoaxes.*

**Keywords:** *Mechanical Solidarity, Urban Society, Behavior Transformation, Altruism, Covid-19 Pandemic*

### **Introduction**

Indonesia has been heavily shaken by the spread of the Covid-19 virus that occurred on early March 2020. All aspects starting from tourism, economy, social, culture, politics, and the environment have been stained by bad conditions due to the impact caused by the spread of the virus. As a country that has a large population with various backgrounds, both urban and rural communities, have felt the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Corona Virus Disease 2019 or acronymed as COVID-19 has been declared by WHO as a global pandemic, and the Government of Indonesia has issued a Presidential Decree No. 11 / 2020 concerning the Determination of Public Health Emergency Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has declared COVID-19 as a mandatory public health emergency. The World Health Organization (WHO) has named the new virus as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) and the name of the disease which spreads and infects the people is called Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) (WHO, 2020). At the beginning, the transmission of this virus could not be determined the possibility that it could pass between humans, but the number of cases continues to grow over time. It could finally be confirmed that this pneumonia-like disease transmission can be transmitted from human to human.

The government has sought measures and policies to be able to break the chain of spreading this virus. Starting from socialization efforts, implementing social distancing, and

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up to enacting laws as the legal basis for prosecution have all been tried. There are still many people who are being confused by the emergence of the corona virus pandemic, especially when this pandemic made an influence and impact on the economic sector, which caused the Government to issue various policies to save the people's economy so that economic stability could be maintained, both on a micro and macro scale.

Starting from the beginning of 2022, the Covid-19 cases has experienced a slow decline, this brought good news for the people of Indonesia who will continue their lives after experiencing a great shock. The presence of this COVID-19 pandemic conflict actually has an indirectly positive impact on social, psychological, and environmental conditions. This is in line with the character presented by Robert K. Merton who revealed that a conflict has a function over humans themselves. In addition, a form of conflict balance is needed in every element of the society (Kincloch, 2009).

As an urban society that is identical with individualism in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has begun to experience changes in behavior or actions on the social system that is usually applied by grass root communities, rural communities, and villages, one of which is known as mechanical solidarity. Emile Durkheim describes a mechanical solidarity which is defined as a shared collective consciousness bound by a kinship system with a high level of concern. The main point of discussion on mechanical solidarity here is to emphasize that all people are considered to have the same degree, there is no class difference from the bourgeoisie or the proletariat (Ritzer, 2012).

As we all know, the life of the village society cannot be separated from mutual cooperation, "*rewang*", "*menyama braya*", or also giving each other. Interestingly, the presence of COVID-19 cases has changed the behavior of the socio-cultural value system activity of urban communities. This is in stark contrast to the characteristics of urban society which tend to be indifferent, individualistic, prestige, and also modern. Based on the description of the background above, it is interesting to conduct research on mechanical solidarity actions in urban or urban communities during the Covid-19 pandemic, causing a shift in behavior. The object of this research is the urban society of Denpasar City.

## **Literature Review**

### **a. State of The Art**

This study departs from reference articles from previous researchers who reveal changes due to the covid-19 pandemic. The research relevant to this research is as follows:

1. The research entitled *The Impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic on the Decline in the Welfare of the People of Pontianak City*. Based on the research that has been done, it can be concluded that the income of respondents experienced a sharp decline between 30%-70% at the beginning of the pandemic period while expenses tended to remain constant. This condition causes respondents to have to deal with family expenses. In general, there was a decrease in the income level of respondents during the pandemic, but not all respondents made drastic changes in food patterns. They only replace certain types of side dishes and prefer to find other sources of income to maintain the old pattern of expenditure rather than changing the pattern of family spending (Kurniasih, 2020).

2. Research entitled “Pandemi COVID-19: Dampak Kesehatan, Ekonomi, dan Sosial”. *COVID-19 Pandemic: The Health, Economic, and Social Effects* by Nurul Aeni. This study aims to describe the impact of the pandemic in terms of health, economy in PATI District. The results of the study are (1) The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health aspect is the high number of positive cases and deaths and the decline in the coverage of most health services; Positive cases of COVID-19 are quite high in areas that are the center of government or close to economic centers; (2) The COVID-19 pandemic causes changes in supply and demand for goods and services. These conditions have an impact on the decline in economic growth. The economic structure of Pati Regency is supported by the agricultural business sector and the manufacturing industry which still shows positive growth during the pandemic. The economic slowdown in turn led to an increase in unemployment, particularly in the micro and small business sector and home industry; (3) The social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Pati Regency is represented by an increase in poverty, where the increase in poverty is higher in areas that have a high number of families and are vulnerable to poverty (Aeni, 2021).

The difference between the research above and the research to be carried out by the researcher is that the two studies as a whole describe the weaknesses or negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the study with title of "Solidaritas Mekanik Masyarakat Urban (Sebuah Kajian Fungsionalisme Konlik Pandemi Covid-19). *Mechanical Solidarity of Urban Society (A Study of Functionalism of the Covid-19 Pandemic Conflict)*" focuses on the direction of the research on conflict functionalism over the COVID-19 pandemic and also describes changes in behavior or actions that occur in urban communities to cause the emergence of mechanical solidarity.

#### **b. Mechanical Solidarity**

Durkheim divided mechanical and organic solidarity into two types. Societies characterized by mechanical solidarity become one and coherent because all people are generalists. This bond in society occurs because they are involved in the same activities and types of work and have the same responsibilities. On the other hand, societies characterized by organic solidarity stick together precisely because of the differences that exist within them, with the fact that everyone has different jobs and responsibilities.

A society that is formed by mechanical solidarity, collective consciousness covers the whole society and all its members, it is very believed, very ingrained, and its content is very religious. According to Durkheim, all members of society are bound by collective consciousness, collective conscience is a common consciousness that includes the whole group beliefs and feelings, and are extreme and coercive. Mechanical solidarity has main characteristics, namely: Low individuality, there is no clear division of labor, and only exists in rural communities.

As a characteristic of urban society, it is far from mechanical solidarity. This is because the behavior of adherents of mechanical solidarity has a low collective awareness,

togetherness and sense of individualism. Usually shown in rural communities. This becomes interesting when urban society changes towards mechanical solidarity, which is characterized by a more individualistic urban society (Soekanto, 1993).

Urban communities or often referred to as urban communities are usually emphasized on the nature of their lives that are different from rural communities. The characteristics that stand out in urban communities include:

1. Religious life is reduced when compared to religious life in the village. This way of life has a tendency towards the world, when compared to the villagers.
2. In general, urban communities can take care of themselves without depending on others. It is difficult to unite families on the basis of interests, political understanding, religious differences and so on, causing individualism.
3. Urban communities are more assertive in having clear boundaries in the division of labor.
4. The rational way of thinking that is generally adopted by urban communities causes interactions that occur based on interest factors rather than social interactions with the kinship system.
5. The achievements of urban society have quite an important position, so that they have the potential to pursue needs and prioritize the time factor (Soekanto, 1993).

Social changes can be seen clearly and clearly in cities, because cities are usually open to receiving external influences. This often creates conflict between the old and the young. Therefore, the young people who have not yet fully realized their personality, often follow new patterns in their lives.

## **Methodology**

Qualitative research is generally structured to provide an experience of reality and capture meaning as it is created in the research field through direct interaction between the researcher and the researched. In addition to those mentioned above, research using this method is an investigative process to understand social problems based on creating a complete holistic picture formed with words, reporting the views of informants in detail, and arranged in a scientific setting (Silalahi, 2012). Basically, qualitative research is an empirical study strategy to uncover problems that cannot be measured by numbers such as perceptions, opinions and interpretations of informants.

In qualitative research methods the results of the analysis do not depend on the amount but the data analyzed from various perspectives so that the activities include data collection, compilation and data analysis. A qualitative descriptive approach was chosen in solving problems and seeking an understanding of reality from the perspective of people who are experts in their fields. All data from key informants are considered as correct as is (Bungin, 2011).

Lofland revealed that the main data sources are in the form of words and actions, while additional data sources can be in the form of written documents, photos, and other recordings. This study has two data sources, namely Primary Data Sources and Secondary

Data Sources. Primary data is information obtained from the first hand relating to interest for specific purposes of the study. Example Primary data sources are individual informants, focus groups and panels specifically determined by the researcher where opinions can be sought regarding certain issues from time to time (Ananta Wikrama Tungga, Komang Ady Kurniawan Saputra, 2014).

Meanwhile, according to Moloeng, secondary data sources are all forms of documents, both in written form and photos. Even though they are referred to as secondary or additional data, documents and photos cannot be ignored in a study, especially written documents such as books, scientific magazines, archives of personal documents and official documents (Ibrahim, 2015). To describe the primary and secondary data sources in the study, it can be seen in the table below.

*Table 1 The Research Primary and Secondary Data Sources*

	Informant Category		
	Occupation	Gender	Age Group
<b>Primary Data Source</b>	Private Sector, Civil Servant, Entrepreneurs	Male	Age Group: Adolscence and Adult
	Private Sector, Civil Servant, Entrepreneurs	Female	Age Group: Adolscence and Adult
<b>Secondary Data Source (Documents and Literature Studies)</b>	1. Books / Magazines related with Conflict Functions, Covid-19, Mechanical Solidarity 2. Pictures Documentations on urban society		

This study uses data collection techniques by means of interviews, observations and documentation studies. Observations are obtained from the activities of urban or urban communities. While in the interview process, the author will ask several questions according to the interview guide to 3 prospective informants classified by type of work, namely private employees, civil servants, and also entrepreneurs who live and work in Denpasar City. The three categories of informants were selected based on the category of work that the urban community was involved in. In addition, each informant will be selected by random sampling, both male and female, as well as age categorization from adolescents and adults.

Miles and Huberman revealed that the analysis activity consisted of three flows of activities carried out together, namely data reduction, data presentation, conclusion drawing or verification. In this case what is meant by happening simultaneously means data reduction, data presentation, drawing conclusions as something that is intertwined such as the interaction cycle process before, during, and after data collection in parallel forms that build general insights called "Analysis" (Silalahi, 2012). At the data analysis stage, the data analysis process is carried out during the data collection process until the research report is completed.

Data collection and analysis is carried out in an integrated manner, meaning that the analysis has been carried out since in the field, namely by compiling data or empirical materials or synthesizing into patterns and various categories appropriately.

## **Findings & Discussion**

### **Developing Conditions for the of Covid 2019 in Denpasar**

In the past two years, Indonesia has been shocked by the outbreak of the corona virus disease, which is often called Covid-19. The fluctuating development of this pandemic case is basically unpredictable. There was a great increase that could be due to one of the reasons for the community's non-compliance in implementing health protocols. But on the other hand, Indonesia has also received appreciation in handling COVID-19 cases from several countries (*“Studi pembelajaran penanganan covid19 indonesia, Kementerian perencanaan pembangunan nasional tahun 2021”*. Learning Study on handling Covid-19 cases in Indonesia, Ministry of National Development Planning in 2021).

The year of 2022 is now a time of healing from the shocks of the Covid-19 pandemic. Where all aspects such as economy, environment, socio-culture, law begin to adapt and restore habits that have been implemented with the new system. This condition is referred to as an endemic condition, where this epidemic disease only occurs in certain areas. Referring to the concept expressed by Tahrus where the notion of a pandemic is one of the disease outbreaks that occurs simultaneously by covering a wide geographical area. While endemic is the constant presence of an infectious disease in a population only in a certain area. (Tahrus, 2020)

The transition period from the development of conditions from a pandemic to an endemic is also quite complicated, starting from travel regulations, restrictions on large-scale activities, the learning process in terms of education, and other conditions that, apart from changing, but in the current year, the government has set a change in conditions that change conditions. good enough for Indonesia such as being able to open masks when doing outside activities, being able to hold big events, educational learning with a hybrid system, and others. From this background, one of the regions in Indonesia with the majority population classification in the type of work in the tourism sector is slowly recovering, one of which is the Island of the Gods. Areas that had experienced suspended animation due to the COVID-19 pandemic slowly began to rise again, terrible portraits in various cities on the island of Bali which became tourist destinations, looked deserted. Not only from tourist destinations, the capital of the island of Bali, namely Denpasar City, also feels that all economic movements are difficult both in terms of small traders, souvenir shops, gift shops, coffee shops, restaurants, and so on. The following is a portrait of one of the tourist destinations in Kuta Bali which has experienced a drastic decline in tourists.



**Figure 1 The Scene of Kuta, Bali During the Pandemic**

Currently, based on data from [safecity.denpasarkota.go.id](http://safecity.denpasarkota.go.id) regarding the development of Covid-19 in Denpasar City, it still requires supervision even though the number of Covid-19 spread has decreased. This condition can't be separated from the role of stakeholders and also the society who are working hard to make Bali as it used to be. Basically, the Covid-19 pandemic has made changes for every level of society in a more positive direction. For example, at the environmental stage, with the COVID-19 pandemic, people are more concerned and obedient to maintain health. From a social perspective, there has been a change in the behavior of urban communities which are currently more sensitive and have a high level of concern. On the economic side, the Balinese people, especially Denpasar City, in various shocks of massive layoffs did not stop them from continuing to rack their brains to support their families in various ways, such as selling masks, tissues, and snacks on the roadside.

### **Altruism: A Form of Mechanical Solidarity in Urban Society**

City is a portrait of human life that can be said to be the most complex of all. Indirectly, the city has properties that can affect the life around them. Urban order is an open system, both physically and socio-economically, and is always changing. Likewise with the condition of the people who are often called Urban Communities. The image of urban society (urban) refers to the *Gesellschaft* society with the characteristics of relationships that occur are formal on the basis of agreements or contracts, relationships that are based on goals, rational and not intimate or impersonal. Urban society is also synonymous with individualistic attitudes. In social life, it looks more creative, radical and dynamic following the times (Ormerod, 2020).

The city is a space for movement towards the future. Physically, urban life is characterized by the presence of towering buildings, the bustle of vehicles, traffic jams, the busyness of citizens and the existence of high competition. The characteristics of urban communities according to Jorge Hardoy in Elly M Setyadi (Elly M, 2011: 854) in Urban Sociology are as follows:

1. Relationships that are almost based on considerations of self-interest
2. The benefits of science and technology for improving the quality of life
3. Differentiating on the basis of differences in professions and expertise as a function of education and training
4. Education level is relatively high

5. The rules that apply are formal and complex laws  
 Economic system oriented to value for money, competition and innovative value

In addition, Elly M. Setiadi also elaborated further on the prominent characteristics of urban communities, namely:

1. Religious life is less as compared to the village
2. Individualism (can take care of their own life without depending on others)
3. The division of labor among the townspeople is firmer
4. Opportunity to get more jobs
5. The importance of more careful division of time to pursue individual needs
6. Social change

As one of the cities in Bali Province, Denpasar City itself is demographically inhabited by various levels of society, there are immigrants from outside the island of Bali and the island of Bali, there are also people who were born and live in Denpasar. The following are the characteristics of the people of Denpasar City in general based on the findings in the field:

**Table 2 The Characteristics of Denpasar City Societies**

No	Klaster Masyarakat	Uraian
1	City <i>Kampong</i> Society	This society is classified based on people who live in urban areas but are in one area that has the same cultural identity, for example, people who live in <i>Kampung Jawa, Kampung Cina, Kampung Bugis</i> .
2	Urban Society	This society is classified based on the side of modernity by placing itself on an individualistic basis. Located in an urban area where the order of life is elite and modern. This society usually prefers to live in Denpasar City housing. Away from the hustle and bustle of the village.
	Commuter Society	These people usually live in areas with a high level of mobility. In Denpasar City, it can be described in people who live around office areas such as in Renon. Or where he works. This classification of society is actually heterogeneous, consisting of various cultures, religions. Commonly, they can also be called migrants, who live in areas outside Denpasar such as Tabanan, Gianyar, Bangli. Karangasem or other areas.

The latest picture of urban society in the past 2 years is the behavior transformation action. One of these changes is due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Reflecting on the previous description of urban communities, the following is a form of transformation that has occurred in urban communities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic:



**Figure 2 The Behavioral Transformation Form of the Urban Society**

The form of transformation or change in people's behavior shown in the picture above, there are 4 things, namely the sensitivity of the society to sharing together. This is either in the form of food, basic necessities, medicine, or necessities for people affected by COVID-19. The second is the sharing of information about the healing of COVID-19, a lot of practitioners, students, influencers, academics in urban areas are competing to instill goodness through social media about healing COVID-19. One of them is where the availability of vitamin drugs, masks are starting to become scarce, even oxygen is also getting scarce. They compete to exchange information with each other, either personally, in groups or even on social media. The third is teamwork, this happens to companies, medical personnel, residential neighborhood groups who are vying to work together to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Lastly, social control over hoax issues regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, is very influential for the general public so that there is no deviation of truth information about this corona virus. Based on the existing findings, it can be said that the urban society with the covid19 pandemic has a high sense of caring, empathy which is known as altruism. Myers D. G. explained about altruism which means the motive to increase the welfare of others without realizing it for one's personal interests. This is an act of caring to help even though there are no benefits offered. Altruism here is the opposite of human nature which is individualistic, selfish and helps someone with the hope of benefiting himself. The existence of a positive feeling response arises such as a sense of affection, compassion and empathy for the welfare of others.

## **Analysis of Conflict Functionalism Theory in Changing Urban Society**

Robert K. Merton emphasizes on order and ignoring conflict and natural changes in society. The main concepts are function, dysfunction, latent function, manifest function and equilibrium (George Ritzer, 2011). Merton divides two functional concepts manifest and latent. The manifest function in sociology focuses on manifest issues as a function to provide an understanding, explanation of a phenomenon that occurs. In this study, which is about the function of the COVID-19 pandemic phenomenon where with the covid19 pandemic, urban communities will later get used to mutual empathy, care for others and social control of hoax issues will continue so that the expected result is to create mechanical solidarity in urban communities. Meanwhile, the latent function is assumed to be a function of a phenomenon that is considered an objective consequence that is not realized by humans in a social system. The function in question is that the society initially did not realize that the Covid-19 pandemic conflict had a positive influence on the life of a social system that was more open, empathetic and caring for others, even though it was far from the portrait of urban communities whose socioeconomic aspects were measured in commodity profits.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the presentation of the findings in the field, it can be concluded as follows:

1. There are 3 aspects that influence changes in the behavior of urban communities from the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, namely in the environment where people are more concerned about maintaining health and cleanliness. On the social side, there is a change in behavior with a higher level of sensitivity. And on the economic side, the people of Denpasar City are enthusiastic to get up by continuing to rack their brains to support their families, such as selling masks, tissues, and snacks on the roadside.
2. The manifestation of the transformation of urban society is Altruism. Altruism is the opposite of the individualistic nature that has been inherent in urban society. The form of altruism in the people of Denpasar is the sharing of food, sharing of information on healing COVID-19, the existence of teamwork such as medical personnel, the general public, companies or housing groups. And finally, there is social control over the hoax issue about Covid-19.

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