

UNDERSTANDING DETERMINANTS OF DOMESTIC TOURISM INTENTIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

This research is based on Azjen's theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) and analyzes travel intention as the dependent variable and then pandemic fatigue, health risks, media communication and government policies as independent variables. Data collection was carried out online with a total of 206 respondents (N-206) and then analyzed using the Structural Equation Model Partial Least Square (SEM-PLS) approach and conducted interviews to deepen the results. The results of data analysis show that the factors that influence travel intentions are Pandemic Fatigue, Media Communication and Government Policy, while health risks do not affect travel intentions. Thus, the government can implement health control policies to reduce severity, such as vaccination and implementation of health protocols, improving the quality of service in tourist areas as well as increasing tourism branding and promotion in increasing travel intentions.

KEYWORDS

Travel Intention, Pandemic Fatigue, Health Risks, Media Communication, Government Policy, Pandemic



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INTRODUCTION

As one of many sectors most affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic, tourism which is projected to be the "rising star" of Indonesia's economy has plummeted. Since the emergence of Covid-19 in Indonesia, the occupancy rate of hotel rooms in Indonesia has dropped significantly by around 28.6 percent, from 56.73 percent to 28.07 percent for the period of July 2019 - July 2020. This is the impact of the policy prohibiting in and out access (lockdown) that applies throughout the world, including Indonesia, although with a different name. The decrease in occupancy rate resulted in a reduction of working hours (work hour losses) for hotel workers which resulted in their income reduction, precisely 12.91 million people

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experiencing reduced working hours compared to before the pandemic (Ministry of Tourism, 2020). Event organizing and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions) sector each suffered a loss of USD 310 Million and IDR 2.69 Trillion – IDR 6.94 trillion and must house around 50,000 workers. According to data from the Ministry of Tourism, the total decline in tourism sector revenue is IDR 20.7 billion in 2020, which of course is not a good sign for the government because President Joko Widodo has set 5 super priority destinations projected to become "5 New Bali" namely Borobudur, Likupang, Mandalika, Lake Toba and Labuan Bajo as the new backbone of national tourism.

The uncertainty of the pandemic, has psychological effects on the community. Government's policy of limiting activities has forced people to stop traveling. A survey institute in the United States noted that 24 percent of people have planned their vacations when the world has entered new normal era. There is a unique symptom in society that the longer and the worse the effects of Covid-19 are, the greater is the desire to immediately carry out normal activities, for example traveling (Pools, 2020). In Indonesia, a survey by the Central Statistics Agency noted that 61.2 percent of the people were fed up with the pandemic situation and resulted in violation of health protocols. This indicates the weariness of the society due to the pandemic. Pandemic burnout is a psychological reaction that can encourage humans, desire to travel or to do activities outside the house (Zaman et al., 2022). On the other hand, there are some health risks in traveling, especially when traveling during a pandemic. Tourist attractions are lacked of visitors. The pandemic has hit the tourism economy hard with similar outbreaks. The existence of an infectious disease during the time will greatly pose a health risk, namely the susceptibility to disease (Pine, 2004).

Communities are fed up with mobility restriction policies, but are faced with health risks due to the outbreak. The community's intention to travel has actually grown as a result of the phenomenon of pandemic fatigue. However, because humans are rational beings, this intention has died down again due to health risks. On the other hand, the pandemic which is continuously monitored by the government and news media has become a reference for the community in decisions making, including in deciding to travel. A survey conducted by PWE Research Center noted that 64 percent of Americans believe that media have negative influence on their lives (Auxier, 2020). Likewise, it applied to the current Covid-19 situation, where media influence the decision-making process. Existing communication media such as newspapers, magazines, television electronic media, social media influence decision making and also people's behavior when traveling (Meng et al., 2021). Finally, in anticipating this pandemic while increasing the demand of domestic tourism, the government has implemented a series of policies. the first layer of the government policies is to reduce the health crisis. The next

layer is to restore the stability of tourism sector and other economic sectors. Starting from making policies in limiting activities, providing incentives, social assistance, and the implementation of CHSE (Cleanliness, Health, Safety, Environment Sustainability) as well as community vaccination efforts to create immunity against the Covid-19 virus in order to resume tourism activities along with the macro economy.

This study aims to analyze the determinant factors that influence the intention to travel domestically during the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia. The research and survey result shows that pandemic fatigue and health risks are the internal factors. Meanwhile, media communication and government policies are the external factors. These 4 factors are independent variables whose influence is analyzed on travel intentions during a pandemic, especially in Indonesia. Travel intention is the dependent variable. A research by classifying internal and external factors on tourist intentions like this in general has never been carried out in Indonesia. This study uses primary data by means of an online survey by distributing Google Form questionnaires which were conducted on May 2022. As many as 206 respondents were collected who came from all regions of Indonesia.

This research is expected to contribute to government sector, society and further researchers. The recommendations that the author produces are expected to become tourism literature for policy development and the tourism industry.

Literature Review and Hypothesis Development

Relationship between health and economic development.

Health plays a crucial role in economic growth, as it serves as fundamental human capital that drives productivity and overall welfare. Arrow's concept of "Comprehensive Investment" and "Comprehensive Wealth" highlights health capital as a key determinant of well-being, as demonstrated in studies across multiple countries. A healthy population contributes to economic development by enhancing labor participation and productivity, which in turn boosts income levels and economic growth. As Tjiptoherijanto (1993) emphasized, improved health leads to higher work participation, increased output, and greater financial stability, ultimately fostering sustained economic expansion.

Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB)

The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), proposed by Ajzen (1991), explains how beliefs influence decision-making by integrating various characteristics and attributes into a final choice. It suggests that intention is the starting point of any planned behavior, shaped by three key components: attitude toward behavior, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control. Attitude reflects an individual's evaluation of an action based on personal experiences and perceptions, while

subjective norms represent the influence of societal expectations and the opinions of others. Lastly, perceived behavioral control assesses the perceived difficulty of performing a behavior based on available resources and opportunities. In the context of travel decision-making, TPB explains how individuals weigh health risks, social influences, and logistical challenges before making travel plans, demonstrating that behavioral intentions are shaped by both internal and external factors.

Travel Intention

The desire to travel is shaped by both personal motivations and external information, culminating in a psychological process that influences decision-making (Jang et al., 2009). Information sources play a crucial role in forming subjective travel decisions, while risk and safety concerns significantly impact travel intentions (Beerli et al., 2004). High-risk destinations, such as those with security threats or disease outbreaks, deter travelers due to heightened anxiety (Sönmez, 1998; George, 2003). Studies on travel behavior during the pandemic reveal that factors like pandemic fatigue, fear of missing out, and optimism post-vaccination drive travel intentions. Empirical research on expatriates in the UAE highlights "revenge travel" trends following the easing of restrictions, while studies in South Korea confirm that perceptions of health risks strongly influence travel attitudes (Bae et al., 2020). Key variables affecting travel decisions include cognitive and affective risk perception, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control.

Pandemic Fatigue

Pandemic fatigue, as described by the World Health Organization (WHO), is a state of demotivation in following health protocols and government regulations due to prolonged exposure to crisis-related stress (WHO, 2020). This phenomenon arises from accumulated emotions, experiences, and perceptions, leading to decreased compliance with measures such as mobility restrictions, mask-wearing, and social distancing. Initially, people adapted to government policies, but over time, uncertainty and frustration led to widespread non-compliance. By October 2020, pandemic fatigue had been mentioned 200 million times on Google, increasing to 240 million by January 2021, reflecting global exhaustion. This psychological state not only weakens mental resilience but also results in reckless behavior, giving rise to terms like "Covidiot" to describe those who ignore health guidelines (Reicher, 2021). More broadly, fatigue can be understood as a decline in motivation and the inability to sustain physical or mental endurance due to depleted resources (Lilleholt et al., 2020). Based on the elaboration above, pandemic fatigue

is the dependent variable on travel intention, so the form of the hypothesis is H1 :
Pandemic fatigue affects travel intentions

Health Risk

Perceived health risks play a significant role in travel decision-making, as individuals assess potential dangers before choosing a destination (Mansfeld, 2005; Sönmez, 1998). In tourism, risk is defined as a subjective perception of potential harm, influencing whether someone decides to travel (Chew et al., 2014). Since the 1990s, research has examined the impact of health crises on tourism, with outbreaks like SARS, Avian Influenza, and MERS causing significant disruptions to the industry (Huang et al., 2020; Floyd et al., 2004). The COVID-19 pandemic, lasting nearly three years, has intensified these concerns, leading to psychological distress and trauma for many, particularly among unvaccinated and vulnerable groups (Boyras et al., 2020). The lasting mental and emotional toll of such health crises further shapes travel behavior, making risk perception a crucial factor in tourism decision-making. Based on the elaboration above, health risk is the dependent variable on travel intention, so the form of the hypothesis is:

H2 : Health Risk affects travel intentions

Media Communication

Media serves as a crucial communication tool, enabling individuals to interact beyond spatial and temporal limitations, especially in the modern digital era. In the tourism sector, travelers rely on media to gather information about destinations, particularly during uncertain situations such as pandemics, where risks and travel restrictions vary widely (Meng et al., 2021; Reisinger, 2005). Studies indicate that people use mass media to assess health risks, including the spread of infectious diseases, before making travel decisions (Pandey et al., 2010). During the COVID-19 pandemic, media played a significant role in providing real-time updates on travel conditions and health risks, reinforcing its function as a key information source for tourists navigating uncertain circumstances. Based on the elaboration above, Media Communication is the dependent variable on travel intention, so the form of the hypothesis is:

H3 : Media Communication affects travel intentions

Government Initiatives

In response to the COVID-19 emergency, the Indonesian government issued Perpu 1/2020 as a legal framework to stabilize the financial system and mitigate economic threats caused by the pandemic. The crisis not only affected public health but also led to a multidimensional economic downturn, including increased state spending, budget deficits, and declining revenues. To address these challenges, the

government prioritized health expenditures, social safety nets, and economic recovery with a focus on supporting businesses. Effective crisis management plays a crucial role in restoring public confidence, as seen in past recovery efforts, such as the rapid rebound of Sichuan's tourism industry after the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake due to government intervention (Jiang et al., 2022). Similarly, well-implemented policies can reduce perceived risks and accelerate economic and tourism recovery. Based on the elaboration above, Media Communication is the dependent variable on travel intention, so the form of the hypothesis is:

H3 : Media Communication affects travel intention

RESEARCH METHOD

Data and Sampling Methods

The data was collected by asking a sample to answer questions or statements in the questionnaire and carried out online using the Google Form. The data collection was carried out from May 20 to May 22, 2022. The collected data is called primary data. Primary data is data obtained from various information sources related to variables with research objectives (Sekaran, 2011). The results that can be collected by researcher from the respondents' answers to the questionnaire are also primary data. Non-probability sampling, namely Purposive Sampling, is used for the sampling technique with the records (1) Respondents are at least 18 years old. Age 18 years is considered an adult so they can make their own decisions. (2) Active domestic travel at least once a year during the pandemic (3) Respondents are spread throughout Indonesia to represent the entire community.

Method of Analysis

Smart PLS 3.0 is the application used in this study. PLS is used because the data obtained does not have to meet the normal distribution requirements so it makes this application quite attractive to researchers. This study uses PLS because PLS can test a large number of observed variables unlike the usual regression analysis, which will occur over fitting if analyzing a lot of data, and regression analysis is limited to Observed variables. In this study, all variables X and Y are unobserved variables, such as attitudes, interests, opinions that do not have a specific unit. Multicollinearity assumptions and normality assumptions do not become a problem when using PLS because it uses bootstrapping method or random multiplication. Analysis on PLS is carried out through three stages, namely Testing the Measurement Model (Outer Model), Testing the Structural Model (Inner Model) and finally testing the Hypothesis.

Tabel 1. List of Operational Variable

Variable	Source	Question
Pandemic Fatigue (X1)	Umer Zaman et al (2022) The Bridge at the End of the World: Linking Expat's Pandemic Fatigue, Travel FOMO, Destination Crisis Marketing, and Vaxication for "Greatest of All Trips"	I am sad and depressed because of the pandemic
		I'm tired of hearing about Covid-19
		I'm tired of following all the rules and behavioral recommendations around Covid-19
		When friends or family members talk about Covid-19, I try to change the subject because I don't want to talk about it anymore.
		I thought, this pandemic will never end
Health Risk (X2)	Bae and Chang (2020) The effect of coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) risk perception on behavioural intention towards 'untact' tourism in South Korea during the firstwave of the pandemic	I'm worried that traveling to domestic tourist destinations will increase the risk of my family and I getting infected by Covid-19
		I'm worried that I will infected by Covid-19
		I am worried about the Covid-19 that is happening in Indonesia
		I refrain myself from traveling to domestic tourist destinations that I want to visit because the people around me seem to be holding back too
		I am worried about the health protocols carried out at the tourist destinations I want to visit
Communication Media (X3)	Yu Meng et al (2021) The Effects of COVID-19 Risk Perception on Travel Intention: Evidence From Chinese Travelers (2021)	I read magazines about Covid-19
		I read newspapers about Covid-19
		I watch TV about Covid-19
		I know about Covid-19 from browsing the internet
		I pay attention to the government's policy on Covid-19
		News in the media is the main source that I refer to when making current travel plans

		I often use news in the media to determine my decision to travel
		News in the media is an important source for determining my decision before I travel
Governme nt Initiatives (X4)	Xiaufang Jiang et al (2021) The mediation of perceived risk's impact on destination image and travel intention: An empirical study of Chengdu, China during Covid-19	<p>The quality of infrastructure in domestic tourist destinations (public transportation, roads, etc.) is already satisfying</p> <p>I think the government is committed to promoting the image of domestic tourist destinations</p> <p>I think the government's current policy supports tourism activities (vaccination, CHSE, antigen swab/PCR swab, care to protect)</p> <p>I received satisfying service from government officials (including airport/harbor/train officers/traffic controllers/police at tourist destinations/health workers etc.) when traveling</p>
Travel Intention (Y)	Ngurah (2020) ;Pengaruh Electronic Word Of Mouth, Destination Image, Destination Familiarity Dan Attitude Toward Destination Terhadap Travel Intention	<p>I can imagine spending my holidays in domestic tourist destinations during the Covid-19 Pandemic</p> <p>I will make efforts to visit domestic tourist destinations in the future</p> <p>I want to visit a domestic tourist destination that I hear is popular with family / friends / co-workers / travel agents</p> <p>I want to visit a popular domestic tourist destination recommended by my family / friends / colleagues / travel agent</p>

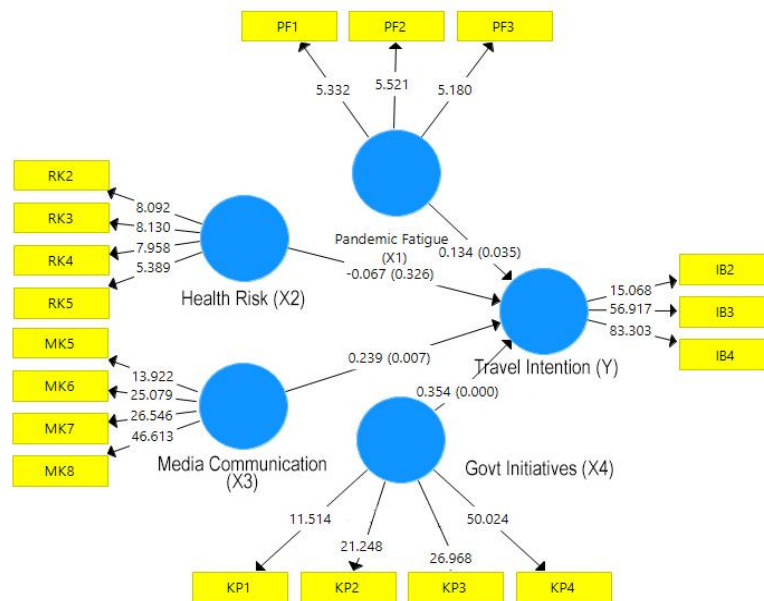


Figure 1. Structural equation model For Travel Intention

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive Analysis

Tabel 2 Demographic Profile

Demographic Profile	Groups	Value	%
Gender	Male	90	47,7
	Female	116	56,3
Travelling Frequency	1 - 2 times a year	103	50
	3 - 4 times a year	63	30,6
	5 - 6 times a year	16	7,8
	> 7 times a year	24	11,7
Age	18 - 24	37	18
	25 - 34	105	51
	35 - 44	22	10,7
	45 - 54	12	5,8
	> 55	30	14,6
Level of education	Highschool or below	21	10,2
	Diploma	14	6,8
	Bachelor	100	48,5
	Master	64	31,1
	Doctoral	7	3,4

Income range* (1 USD = IDR 15.125 per Jan 20 2023)	< IDR 5.000.000	85	41,3
	IDR 5.000.000 - 8.000.000	75	36,4
	IDR 8.000.000 - 10.000.000	24	11,7
	IDR 10.000.000 - 20.000.000	17	8,3
	> IDR 20.000.000	5	2,4
Profession	Government Employee	120	58,3
	Private Sector employee	26	12,6
	Retired	1	0,5
	Entrepreneur	10	4,9
	Freelance	5	2,4
	Student	27	13,1
	Housewife	2	1
	Other	15	7,3
Travel preference	Group travelling	132	64,1
	Solo Travelling	74	35,9

Table 2 shows the gender ratio of the respondents, namely 90 men and 116 women. The majority of respondents carry out tourism activities at least 1-2 trips, followed by 3-4 trips. This can imply that the number of tourist trips is certainly very small in 1 year. The age distribution of respondents from a total of 206 people. 105 respondents aged 25-34 years were 68.9 percent, followed by 37 respondents or 18 percent aged 18-24, 30 respondents or 14.6 percent are above 55 years old, 22 respondents or 10.7 percent aged 35-44, and 12 respondents or 5.8 percent aged 45-54. The distribution of education levels of respondents out of a total of 206 people, the largest was Bachelor's degree with 100 respondents or 48.5 percent, followed by 64 respondents or 31.1 percent have Masters degree, SMA or equivalent or below as many as 21 respondents or 10.2 percent, 14 respondents or 6.8 percent are Diploma, and 12 respondents or 5.8 percent have doctorate degree.

The distribution of income levels of respondents from a total of 206 people, the largest is in the income range of less than IDR 5,000,000 was 85 respondents or 41.3 percent, followed by income range of IDR 5,000,000 - IDR 8,000,000 by 75 respondents or 36.4 percent, 24 respondents or 11.7 percent have income range of IDR 8,000,000 - IDR 10,000,000, 17 people or 8.3 percent have income range of IDR 10,000,000 - IDR 20,000,000, and more than IDR 20,000,000 by 5 respondents or 2.4 percent. The professions of respondents out of a total of 206 people. Mostly government employees with 120 respondents or 58.3 percent, followed by 27 respondents or 13.1 percent students. Private Employees amounted 26 respondents or 12.6 percent, 5 respondents or 2.4 percent Freelancers, 2 respondents or 1 percent are Housewives, 1 person or 0.5 percent is Pensioners, and the rest answered (outside the job list) as many as 15 residents or 7.3 percent. Travel preferences of a

total of 206 people. Most respondents, as many as 132 respondents or 64.1 percent chose to travel in groups, while 74 respondents or 35.9 percent chose to travel alone / solo.

Table 4. Structural Model Path Coefficient

Path Coefficient	Hypothesis	Original Sample (O)	P Values (sig if value <0,05)	Note
Pandemic Fatigue (X1) → Travel Intention (Y)	H1	0.134	0.035	Accepted
Health Risk (X2) → Travel Intention (Y)	H2	-0.067	0.326	Rejected
Media Communication (X3) → Travel Intention (Y)	H3	0.239	0.007	Accepted
Government Initiatives (X4) → Travel Intention (Y)	H4	0.354	0.000	Accepted
Coefficient of Determination (R ²) – Travel Intention				
R Square	0,285			
R Square Adjusted	0,271			

Based on table 4, the following information can be seen: a. Pandemic fatigue (X1) has a significant effect on travel intention (Y) with a P value of 0.035 < 0.05. Then H1 is accepted and Ho is rejected. b. Health Risk (X2) to Travel Intention (Y) has no significant effect with P Values 0.326 > 0.05. Then H2 is rejected and Ho is accepted. c. Media Communication (X3) on Travel Intention (Y) has a significant effect with P Values 0.007 < 0.05. Then H3 is accepted and Ho is rejected d. Government Policy (X4) on Travel Intentions (Y) has a significant effect with a P Values of 0.000 < 0.05. Then H4 is accepted and Ho is rejected. If then the test results in whether positive / liner or negative / reverse on variables X and Y, it can be concluded that based on the original sample value, the direction of hypothesis testing is seen. If the value is positive then the direction is positive, and vice versa for the negative.

Interpretation of the original sample values in table 4 Hypothesis Testing is: a. Pandemic Fatigue (X1) to Travel Intention (Y), the original sample value is positive so that the relationship is linear b. Health Risk (X2) to Travel Intention (Y), the original sample value is negative so the relationship is reversed c. Media Communication (X3) on Travel Intention (Y), the original sample value is positive so the relationship is linear d. Government Policy (X4) on Travel Intentions (Y), the original sample value is positive so the relationship is linear. The findings in the

hypothesis testing section explain that there is a relationship between the variables tested. A total of 206 respondents were given a questionnaire with the previous characteristics that have been described in the descriptive analysis section. Based on the results of testing the data, it was explained that the 4 independent variables and 1 variable and research model met the criteria and could be used for hypothesis testing. The findings of the hypothesis testing explained that of the 4 X variables tested whether there was a direct effect on Y variable, that 3 X variables had a significant effect, while the remaining 1 variable was not significant. The 3 significant variables on the intention to travel are Pandemic Fatigue, Media Communication, and Government Policy (Government initiatives). While 1 variable is not significant is Health Risk (health risk) and then look at the direction of the hypothesis with the result that 3 variables are positive, and 1 is negative.

Some of the findings and results of this analysis strengthen some of the findings in previous studies and reference studies. In the relationship between Pandemic Fatigue and Travel Intentions, research (Zaman et al., 2021) explains that Pandemic Fatigue has a positive effect on Travel Intentions, continuous restrictions and lockdowns cause boredom, causing the desire to "reply" revenge" / "revenge travel" to make up for lost time during mobility restrictions by traveling. Pandemic fatigue which is a state of being demotivated or feeling demotivated to follow recommended behaviors to protect themselves and others from the virus (WHO, 2020b). This loss of motivation will certainly create a situation that is not good for mental health, so traveling is one way to overcome it (Rokni, 2021). The condition of pandemic fatigue has a positive and significant correlation with travel intention as the findings in this study are empirical conditions where a state of confinement and a massive reduction in mobility due to policies to deal with transmission of Covid-19 cause negative psychological effects. Thus traveling is one way to normalize mental health/to cope with pandemic fatigue. One study reported that the main travel motives in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic included socio-psychological needs for mental health, social connectedness, self-development and relaxation (Aebli et al., 2022).

Another finding also shows a high level of significance is media communication. In this increasingly fast and open era, media communication is a source or reference in making decisions by an individual. The decision to travel is a complex and risky matter. Tourists/travellers are always encouraged to seek new information (Griffin et al., 2004). Information about developments in transmission status, daily cases is very vital if it is related to the current situation. Travel requirements that change every certain period are also very crucial for the public to be able to adjust. Currently, almost everything in daily life, people always rely on media, be it social media or information on online media to make decisions (Leder et al., 2015).

Some of researches that became the references were strengthened by the findings in this study. Media communication is very influential on travel intention. People who want to travel are strongly influenced by media reports or policies published by the news media. News containing cases of transmission is used as a reference before traveling. The last significant finding on travel intention is government initiatives or government policies. The government, as its authority in the executive function, plays a very vital role in efforts to prevent and deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. The existence of the Covid-19 Handling Task Force is a form of the government's quick reaction in dealing with this disaster. Government initiatives refer to all local government efforts (destination-based) to respond to crises, restore the destination's image, and attract tourists (Jiang et al., 2022). The government's quick response in a disaster can mitigate the risks that will occur (Fang, 2007). The same is true with the findings in this study, that Government initiatives have proven to be a green signal in tourist intentions. Government policies that have so far mitigated the risk of transmission also play a role in people's desire to travel. Policies that can provide a sense of security, mitigate the risk of transmission such as the obligation to carry out antigen swabs, PCR and temperature checks before entering a room provide a sense of security for the government. The Cleanliness (cleanliness), Health (Health), Safety (security), and Environmental Sustainability (CHSE) policies are a standard to provide a sense of security for the community (Ministry of Tourism, 2021). In line with several studies and efforts by the Indonesian government to reduce the negative effects of this pandemic, government initiatives or government policies have a significant and positive effect on travel intentions. People have high hopes for the government to carry out optimal handling of this pandemic, so it has a positive correlation in efforts to revive national tourism passion.

As the driving wheel of government, the government is considered to have a central role in dealing with this pandemic problem, but in reality what happened was that the Indonesian government had experienced policy turbulence in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. Figure 2 indicates that the ratio of deaths of Covid-19 sufferers in Indonesia is very large. Myanmar ranks first with a CFR of 3.19 percent and Indonesia ranks second with 2.58 percent, even though the government has promoted the lockdown policies, as well as free vaccinations for all Indonesian people. The slow progress of vaccination is also one of the reasons that there are still many cases with a high probability of death even though vaccination is indeed one way to strengthen immunity and reduce the severity of Covid-19 sufferers. Per January 2023, vaccination data still far from the target. For the first dose, vaccination rate is still 86 persen. This shows that not 100 percent of the Indonesian people have received the first vaccine although the vulnerability is actually very high if you haven't received the first dose of vaccination. The booster vaccination

rate is still very low, not even covering half of the target of people receiving vaccinations. Low vaccination coverage and the issue of vaccine expiration is the government's homework that must be concerned. In fact, the number of vaccine procurement is very large. In 2020 and 2021 alone, the total state budget for vaccine procurement is IDR 35 trillion and IDR 74 trillion (Ministry of Finance, 2021). A large amount of budget, but low vaccination coverage is certainly not a good signal, especially in the context of a health and economic rebound, especially national tourism.

Interview

The author then digs deeper with the interview method to clarify this government policy variable, especially on all questions 1 to 4. This interview was conducted using the Zoom Meeting media with 2 respondents who can represent the classification of age, education, employment and income and current domicile is separated into Javanese and Non-Javanese (full interview transcripts are in the attachment). The following is a summary of the interview.

Interview with Mr. Erpha, 33 years old, a civil servant, domiciled in Depok, West Java, last visited Bali

- a. The quality of supporting infrastructure is good, in big cities it is evenly distributed and each destination province already has an airport as a good connecting access. Roads are also continuously being repaired by the government. However, it is not yet certain whether the quality is evenly distributed in all tourist destination provinces since favorite tourist destinations are usually not urban areas.
- b. The government has promoted tourist areas. Now Indonesia has a slogan "wonderful Indonesia" although it is a bit late compared to Malaysia with its "truly Asia". This branding also goes hand in hand with government policies to promote domestic tourism, such as the Proud to Travel in Indonesia movement by the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.
- c. The government initially acted very slowly and passively with the existence of Covid-19, then after the change of Minister, the government's rapid movement began to be felt. Telemedicine services are very helpful, especially for people who are sick but cannot have a centralized isolation room. Vaccinations are also very easy to be obtained in big cities, and the numbers are very low because the private sector and even political institutions are helping to organize the vaccinations.
- d. Officials in tourist areas has given well services. The security, health and traffic control apparatus really pay attention to PSBB and PPKM which are

regulated by the government, although the rules are often troublesome, but this is done for the common good.

- e. The quality of infrastructure, government services, branding and statistics on Covid-19 cases in an area are very crucial in choosing a tourist destination and making a decision to travel. When cases rose sharply, it became a separate concern not to travel first.

Interview with Mr. Fredo, 30 years old, a private employee, domiciled in Nabire, Central Papua, last visited the Tidore Archipelago

- a. The quality of infrastructure is good in big cities, especially in Java, but not evenly distributed in non-Java islands. This has been proven in the Nabire area as the domicile concerned where there is only 1 hospital for isolation. There are not many paved roads. The airport only operates until noon. As a result of Covid-19 many flights have been canceled due to a lack of passengers and tickets have become expensive.
- b. Branding by the government has been massive, but it is also necessary to develop new tourist areas even though Indonesia has a lot of tourism potential. The local government has not massively promoted tourism promotion due to a lack of funds, so the promotion is limited and does not reach deeply. The government is still focusing on developing basic social services. Branding is only done on social media and it is felt necessary to be able to use mainstream media such as TV, radio, domestic and foreign exhibitions.
- c. Covid-19 did not feel so disturbing in Nabire. Even though there had been PSBB and PPKM, it did not last long. People live without masks when doing their daily activities. Only government employees and when visiting crowded centers they are required to wear masks. There is no punishment for violators. There are also only a few people who do vaccines and awareness of vaccines is still low. Even vaccines are considered as not important.
- d. Service by officials in tourist areas is good, especially the police who ask people to comply with health protocols. But still there is no meaningful punishment for violators.
- e. The quality of infrastructure, government services, is very important, but is not evenly distributed in the Eastern Indonesia. The daily case of Covid-19 is not a significant thing in traveling in the Eastern Indonesia.

According to the results of the interviews it can be concluded that there are different understandings based on different experiences. People who tend to live in the Java region feel very threatened by the pandemic, while those outside Java do not. The quality of infrastructure is also different, as are the services received by the community. Unequal vaccination coverage has been validly proven through the

interview. Even though vaccination is a vital policy in the context of growing immunity, so that if you contract the Covid-19 disease the severity/fatality rate of being infected is not too high.

The variable in this study that was not proven to be significant was Health Risk. Health risks are not proven to be a stimulant of travel intentions during a pandemic. This confirms several studies where health risk factors have no effect on travel intentions. In the tourism industry, risk has become a major concern for the international tourism industry (Kozak et al., 2007). Human naturally look for the best option, namely a safe tourist destination as their destination, especially related to the uncertainty of the risks that will be accepted (Beirman, 2002). This is very reasonable if we look at it from the point of view that tourists who travel for tourism, sometimes do not know for sure their tourist destinations. Even though the paragraph related to Media Communication has been explained, currently tourists have used media such as social media and online news to dig up the widest possible information. However, when viewed in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has occurred a long time since its inception in China, people live in uncertainty and are up against something more uncertain and invisible than other threats (e.g. disasters, wars), making there are differences in the findings in this study. Research on risk perception in the Jabodetabek area, explains that there is no relationship between health risks and travel intentions (Utama et al., 2020). The small significance of the relationship between health risks and the desire to travel also proves that, at certain times, people who are bored will no longer pay attention to health factors and want to travel immediately. This weariness is explained as one of the symptoms of pandemic fatigue and this study clearly proves that pandemic fatigue is inversely related to health risks.

CONCLUSION

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected Indonesia since 2020, has had significant negative impacts on tourism, despite the sector's gradual recovery. Given Indonesia's prioritization of tourism in the 2020-2024 RPJMN, the government must act swiftly to regain momentum. However, challenges remain, particularly concerning public perceptions of health risks and the structural impacts of policies such as lockdowns and mobility restrictions. Based on data analysis from 206 respondents, this study found that health risks no longer significantly impact travel decisions, aligning with the “revenge travel” trend where prolonged restrictions have fueled an eagerness to travel. Instead, pandemic fatigue, media communication, and government policies were identified as significant factors influencing travel intentions. While government policies have contributed to the sector's recovery, issues such as uneven vaccination distribution and inconsistent

tourism infrastructure development highlight the need for more equitable policy implementation.

The study offers recommendations for multiple stakeholders to enhance tourism recovery. The government should focus on increasing vaccination coverage, improving service quality in tourist areas, and ensuring equitable infrastructure development. Additionally, collaborative branding between the central and regional governments and the private sector can enhance tourism promotion. The public is encouraged to comply with health protocols, complete vaccinations, and rely on official government sources for travel information. For researchers, the study acknowledges that pandemic fatigue, health risks, media communication, and government policies explain only 28.5% of travel intentions, indicating that future research should explore additional factors influencing travel behavior. Lastly, limitations in data collection due to varying perceptions across regions suggest that public sentiment toward COVID-19 and travel safety is influenced by local infection rates, mortality rates, and media trends, requiring more contextualized approaches in future studies.

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