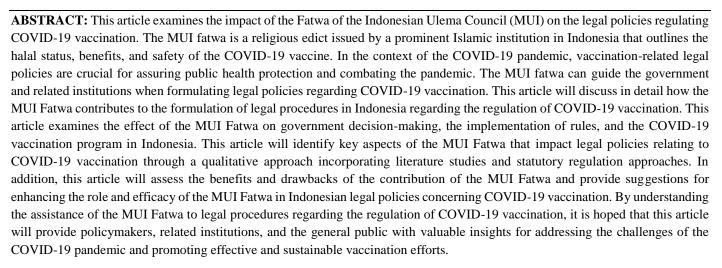
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MUI Fatwa's Contribution to Legal Policies Related to Covid-19 Vaccination Regulations

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A. INTRODUCTION

The Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) has issued a fatwa about the COVID-19 vaccine, which is one of the many factors the Indonesian government has considered in formulating its vaccine policy. The fatwa concerning the COVID-19 vaccination was released by the MUI in 2021 after the MUI had previously carried out scientific research and studies on the vaccine. TAs a result, the Food and Drug Supervisory This information was included in the fatwa that the MUI issued. MUI further stressed that administering the COVID-19 vaccination is acceptable in Islam and falls under the category of efforts to maintain health and prevent the spread of illness. Therefore, this point was put in various measures to maintain health and prevent the spread of disease.

Prior to this, most people in Indonesia still had scepticism regarding the COVID-19 immunization movement due to various hoax issues and incorrect information concerning the vaccine. Among these are the concerns that the COVID-19 vaccination is not halal, has potentially lethal side effects, and may even bring about death. Nevertheless, thanks to the efforts of the government and other parties to provide accurate and honest education and information about the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as the backing from religious leaders and Islamic groups, the public's openness and acceptance of vaccination is expanding. Despite this, a relatively tiny population continues to have scepticism regarding the halal status and safety of the COVID-19 vaccine. As a result, persistent efforts need to be made to educate the general public about the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as to convey correct and open information to them about the vaccine and to make it possible for the general public to acquire the vaccination in an uncomplicated and unrestricted manner.

The Indonesian government does consider the fatwa issued by the MUI concerning the COVID-19 vaccine and uses it as a point of reference when formulating its policy for the vaccination against COVID-19. During a news conference held on January 15, 2021, the spokesperson for the COVID-19 Handling Task Force, Professor Wiku Adisasmito, disclosed this information to the audience. He indicated that the government would determine the COVID-19 immunization policy based on the fatwa issued by the MUI as its primary basis and reference. The government will then take the necessary precautions to guarantee that the vaccines being administered are legal but also effective and safe. In addition, the government is working to improve public comprehension of the significance of COVID-19 immunization and speed up vaccination initiatives throughout Indonesia. (Djojosubroto & Asmara, 2021)

As a result, it is plausible to assert that the fatwa issued by the MUI was a significant factor in the formation of the Indonesian government's policy on the COVID-19 vaccine. This fatwa gives direction and advice to the government and society in making decisions regarding the COVID-19 vaccination. This is done to expedite the treatment of the pandemic and restore normal living in Indonesia.

To evaluate the efficacy of the fatwa and its impact, it is vitally important to research the MUI fatwa's contribution to government policy regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. Because this research can assist in quantifying the amount to which MUI fatwas can impact people's views and behaviours towards immunization against COVID-19 because it can do so quantitatively. Surveys and interviews with members of the general public can be carried out as part of this investigation to determine whether or not the MUI fatwa has a significant role in the public's choice regarding whether or not to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Research can also assist in determining the aspects that influence the public's acceptance of MUI fatwas. In this situation, qualitative research can be conducted to explore the different social, cultural, and religious aspects that influence people's perspectives and attitudes toward MUI fatwas. This can be done to understand better how people perceive MUI fatwas.

Research can assist the government in identifying hurdles and obstacles in implementing the MUI fatwa in the COVID-19 vaccination policy, which is another crucial aspect. For instance, research can reveal problems that inhibit the implementation of MUI fatwas. Some examples of such concerns include a lack of public awareness, accurate information, or issues relating to halal and haram. In addition, research can assist the government and other connected institutions in formulating methods to boost the efficiency and impact of the MUI fatwa included in the COVID-19 vaccination policy. In this scenario, the research findings can serve as the foundation for developing educational programs and social campaigns that are more efficient in raising public awareness and encouraging participation in vaccination programs.

The novel aspect of this research, which distinguishes it from other research, relates to evaluating the benefits and drawbacks of the fatwa contribution of the Indonesian Ulema Council in terms of government policy to issue rules connected to Covid-19 vaccination in Indonesia. This new item has come out of this research, which is distinct from other research. Therefore, by undertaking an extensive study on the contribution of MUI fatwas to COVID-19 vaccination policy, both the government and the general people would be able to understand the efficacy of these fatwas better and strengthen their efforts to speed the containment of the pandemic.

Penelitian ini memfokuskan pada dua pembahasan utama yaitu: Bagaimana Kontribusi Fatwa MUI dalam Kebijakan Vaksinasi COVID-19 di Indonesia? Bagaimana evaluasi Kontribusi Fatwa MUI dalam Kebijakan Vaksinasi COVID-19 di Indonesia?

B. METHODS

In the course of research on the influence of MUI fatwas on governmental policy about the COVID-19 vaccination, qualitative research methodologies were utilized, and a literary approach and a statute approach were used as research approaches. This research method offers many benefits, many of which are extremely useful for this investigation. The literature approach allows researchers to acquire data on MUI fatwas and COVID-19 immunization policies from various sources. The information obtained from these sources can be found in various publications, including research papers, scientific journals, essays, books, and records from various levels of government. In this scenario, researchers have the opportunity to get a more in-depth grasp of issues pertaining to halal and haram in the context of COVID-19 vaccination and a more thorough comprehension of MUI fatwas and COVID-19 vaccination policy. While the statutory regulatory technique enables researchers to do an in-depth study of various laws, regulations, and procedures linked to COVID-19 immunization, the epidemiological approach does not. In this scenario, researchers have the opportunity to acquire a more in-depth understanding of how the MUI fatwa is implemented in the COVID-19 vaccination policy of the government.

Researchers can conduct a more in-depth and extensive investigation of the MUI fatwa's role in developing the COVID-19 vaccination policy when they use the qualitative research approach. Researchers can conduct in-depth and rigorous analyses of the data they collect using qualitative research methods, enabling them to provide more prosperous and in-depth findings. In light of this, it is essential for research on the contribution of the MUI fatwa to the COVID-19 vaccination policy to use qualitative research methodologies in conjunction with an approach based on the study of literature and a system based on statutes. Researchers can provide rich and in-depth findings utilizing this kind of study, which helps them better understand MUI fatwas and COVID-19 vaccination policy. Additionally, they can produce results on topics linked to halal and haram in the context of COVID-19 vaccination.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. MUI Fatwa Regarding The COVID-19 Vaccine

At the request of parties interested in Islamic law, the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) will give views and recommendations on Islamic law, known as fatwas. These interested parties can be governments, organizations, or individual people. This MUI fatwa represents the consensus opinion of Muslim scholars and academics on matters of religious and social concern that arise in modern

society. (Majelis Ulama Indonesia, 2021) Although the fatwas issued by the MUI do not carry any weight in the court of law, Muslim communities frequently utilize them as a point of reference when deliberating or carrying out religiously-motivated activities. The government commonly considers Fatwas issued by the MUI as a significant factor in the decision-making process regarding religious and social issues. (Effendy, 2020) Nevertheless, the MUI Fatwa plays a considerable part in ensuring that the Muslim community is provided with guidance and direction regarding the performance of prayer and day-to-day activities. In addition, fatwas issued by the MUI have the potential to sway the government's actions regarding matters of religion and the well-being of Muslims. (Mahendra, 2008)

The view or opinion of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI), also known as the fatwa, regarding a religious matter that Muslims confront is known as the MUI fatwa. After extensive research and deliberation, the MUI issued this fatwa based on references to holy texts, hadiths, and various other trustworthy sources. Due to the fact that they are considered to be the highest form of religious authority, fatwas issued by the MUI carry a significant amount of weight in Indonesia's Islamic community. Fatwas issued by the MUI are generally acknowledged as representing the religious authority in Indonesia and are extensively recognized by the country's Muslim population. On the other hand, fatwas issued by the MUI do not directly carry any legal weight unless and until they are incorporated into legislation or official government policy. (Majelis Ulama Indonesia, 2018)

The fatwa about the COVID-19 vaccine that the MUI issued was given the number 03/2021 and was published on February 19, 2021. This fatwa reaffirms that Muslims must take the COVID-19 vaccination, which has been sanctioned for use by the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM) and is also recognized as halal by the Muslim Ulema Council (MUI). Furthermore, this fatwa is founded on the principle of convenience (*maslahah*) and the focus on urgency (emergency). Therefore, in times of crisis, such as the current COVID-19 epidemic, the use of a COVID-19 vaccine that is both halal and safe is permitted, as stated in this fatwa. In addition, this fatwa adds that delaying the use of a COVID-19 vaccine that is halal and safe might put oneself and others in danger and facilitate the spread of the virus.

The fatwa issued by the MUI concerning the COVID-19 vaccination is significant because it offers Muslims in Indonesia instruction on how to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and whether or not to utilize the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, this fatwa helps enhance the notion that the COVID-19 vaccination that has been certified by the BPOM and pronounced halal by the MUI is safe and effective for usage among Muslim community members.

2. Implementation of the MUI Fatwa in the COVID-19 Vaccination Policy in Indonesia

It is essential that the MUI Fatwa that was issued on the COVID-19 vaccine was incorporated into the Indonesian government's vaccination program. The Indonesian government analyzed the fatwa issued by the MUI and contained the MUI's recommendations for the country's COVID-19 immunization policy. The vaccination policy in Indonesia is influenced by the MUI fatwa that was issued about the COVID-19 vaccine. Benefit (*maslahah*) and inconvenience (emergency) serve as the foundation for the COVID-19 vaccination policy. In addition for the foundation for the MUI fatwa. In other words, the MUI fatwa is the basis for the COVID-19 vaccination policy. In addition, the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM) uses the fatwa issued by the MUI as a reference when assessing the halal status of the COVID-19 vaccine that will be administered in Indonesia. MUI has issued fatwas for each type of COVID-19 vaccine that has been certified by BPOM and pronounced halal by MUI. These fatwas can be seen on the MUI website. (Yunita, 2021)

During the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination, the fatwa issued by the MUI was followed by some other religious organizations in Indonesia, such as Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah. Therefore, the Muslim population in Indonesia is given further reason to believe that the COVID-19 vaccination is both safe and halal due to this development.

The application of the MUI Fatwa concerning the COVID-19 vaccine in the context of Indonesia's vaccination policy can be seen from different perspectives. First, the Indonesian government has recognized and adopted the MUI fatwa regarding the COVID-19 vaccine as a reference in implementing COVID-19 vaccines in Indonesia. This was done to comply with the requirements of the Indonesian government. Second, the fatwa issued by the MUI has emerged as a significant factor that should be considered when selecting the vaccine that will be administered in Indonesia. Third, the fatwa issued by the MUI has served as the foundation for the Indonesian government's efforts to ensure that a halal and risk-free COVID-19 vaccination is readily available by the country's Muslim population.

An article titled "The Role of the Indonesian Ulema Council's Fatwa on COVID-19 Vaccine in shaping government policy in Indonesia" was published in Vaccine in March of 2021. This article is one of the scientific journals that discusses the implementation of the MUI fatwa in the COVID-19 vaccination policy in Indonesia. According to this article, the MUI fatwa regarding the COVID-19 vaccine has influenced the policies of the Indonesian government in several different ways. These ways include determining the types of vaccines allowed in Indonesia and making efforts to ensure the availability of halal and safe for use by the Muslim community. In addition, these ways include determining which vaccines are allowed in Indonesia. (Djojosubroto & Asmara, 2021)

The article also adds that the MUI's fatwa regarding the COVID-19 vaccine has provided the Muslim community in Indonesia with certainty and trust regarding the safety and halalness of utilizing the COVID-19 vaccine. This is mentioned as a point

of interest in the article. In this scenario, the fatwa issued by the MUI might be considered a crucial aspect in improving the faith of the Muslim population in Indonesia in the COVID-19 immunization program.

3. Impact of MUI Fatwa on COVID-19 Vaccination Policy in Indonesia

The MUI Fatwa issue about the COVID-19 vaccine has significantly impacted Indonesia's vaccination policy, which may be witnessed in several ways. In the first place, the Indonesian government has been given advice and guidance by the MUI fatwa in choosing which vaccines are permitted to be used in Indonesia. Second, the fatwa issued by the MUI has been instrumental in ensuring that halal and risk-free vaccines are readily available for usage by the Muslim population in Indonesia. Third, the MUI fatwa affects how Muslim community members feel about the COVID-19 vaccination in terms of its halal status and ability to prevent harm.

The article "The Impact of the Indonesian Ulema Council's Fatwa on COVID-19 Vaccines on the Vaccination Policy in Indonesia" was published in the journal Asian Journal of Social Science Studies in April 2021. This article is part of a scientific journal that discusses the impact of the MUI fatwa on the COVID-19 vaccination policy in Indonesia. According to this article, the MUI fatwa about the COVID-19 vaccine has influenced the vaccination policy in Indonesia, particularly regarding the determination of the types of vaccines permitted in Indonesia. (Lestari & Sukmawati, 2021)

The MUI fatwa has enhanced the belief of the Muslim community in Indonesia about the safety and halalness of utilizing the COVID-19 vaccine, which the author of the article says has the potential to increase public involvement in the COVID-19 immunization campaign. However, even though the MUI has given a fatwa on the COVID-19 vaccine, the article draws attention to the fact that many community organizations question the vaccine's halal status and safety.

The article "The Impact of Indonesian Ulema Council's Fatwa on COVID-19 Vaccination Acceptance among Indonesian Muslim Community" was published in the journal Journal of Islamic Marketing in January 2021. This article is a scientific journal that discusses the impact of the MUI Fatwa on COVID-19 vaccination policies in Indonesia. This article states that the MUI fatwa has had a good effect on improving the degree of faith in the COVID-19 vaccine's safety and halalness among the Muslim population in Indonesia. In addition, the MUI fatwa significantly improved the openness and acceptance of the COVID-19 immunization program among the Muslim community. The government brought about this acceptance and transparency. (Nuraini; Hidayat & Aziz, 2021)

The article also indicates that the MUI Fatwa has been a significant reference for the Indonesian government in selecting the COVID-19 vaccination that can be used in Indonesia. This information can be found in the previous paragraph. This demonstrates that the fatwa issued by the MUI substantially influences the immunization policy regarding COVID-19 in Indonesia.

4. Evaluation of the Strengths and Weaknesses of the Contribution of the MUI Fatwa in the COVID-19 Vaccination Policy in Indonesia

The MUI Fatwa's contribution to the COVID-19 vaccination policy in Indonesia has several advantages, namely:

- 1. The Muslim community must be given direction and a point of reference to select COVID-19 vaccines that are halal and safe, following Islamic principles.
- 2. Determine the categories of vaccines that can be utilized in Indonesia by influencing government policy.
- 3. Boosting the Muslim community's confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine's safety and halal status.
- 4. Increasing the level of openness and adoption of the COVID-19 vaccination program by the Muslim community.

An article titled "The Role of Islamic Institutions in Encouraging Vaccination Uptake among Muslim Communities: The Case of Indonesia" in a scientific journal discusses evaluating the benefits of the MUI Fatwa's contribution to the COVID-19 vaccination policy in Indonesia. The article demonstrates that the MUI Fatwa enhances the Muslim community's confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine, particularly in terms of the vaccine's halal status and safety. This has led to an increase in the number of Indonesian Muslims who are prepared to be vaccinated and a decrease in the number of Muslims who reject vaccines. (Saefullah; Hadi & Mulia, 2021) In addition, the article states that the MUI Fatwa significantly impacts the Indonesian government's choice of COVID-19 vaccine. Including the MUI Fatwa in the COVID-19 vaccination policy can also increase Muslim community participation in the government-sponsored COVID-19 vaccination program.

The MUI Fatwa's contribution to the COVID-19 vaccination policy in Indonesia also has several drawbacks, including:

- 1. MUI fatwas lack the legal authority to compel people to follow the issued guidelines, so some individuals still do not worry about the MUI Fatwa recommendations for selecting the type of COVID-19 vaccine.
- 2. The MUI fatwa is too focused on the halal and safety aspects of vaccines so that aspects of vaccine effectiveness and efficiency are not a significant concern.
- 3. The MUI fatwa only provides general guidance regarding the halalness and safety of vaccines without providing more detailed information regarding vaccine production and testing processes.
- 4. MUI fatwas cannot meet the needs of Muslim communities living outside Indonesia, so they still need guidance from local religious institutions.

5. The MUI fatwa only guides a COVID-19 vaccine that is halal and safe according to Islamic teachings but does not adequately explain the efficacy and safety of each type of COVID-19 vaccine available in Indonesia.

An article titled "Vaccine Hesitancy and the Role of Religion: A Systematic Review" in a scientific journal discusses assessing the shortcomings of the MUI Fatwa's contribution to the COVID-19 vaccination policy in Indonesia. The article demonstrates that the MUI Fatwa provides only general guidance regarding COVID-19 vaccines that are halal and safe according to Islamic teachings but does not provide adequate information regarding the efficacy and safety of each variety of COVID-19 vaccines. This can lead to confusion and ambiguity within the Muslim community regarding selecting the most suitable vaccine. (Anwar; Nabila; Darmayanti & Rokhmayanti, 2021)

In addition, the article emphasizes that the MUI Fatwa is applicable only in Indonesia and cannot satisfy the needs of Muslim communities outside of Indonesia. In addition, it can be challenging for MUI fatwas to reach Muslim communities in remote areas or with limited information access.

5. Efforts to Enhance the Role of the MUI Fatwa in Indonesia's COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

To increase the contribution of the MUI Fatwa to the COVID-19 vaccination policy in Indonesia, several efforts can be made, including: (Kementerian Kesehatan Republik Indonesia, 2021)

- a. Improve communication between the MUI and the government, particularly the Ministry of Health and the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM). This can aid the MUI in obtaining more comprehensive and accurate data regarding the efficacy and safety of the COVID-19 vaccine in Indonesia, allowing the MUI to provide more precise and current guidance.
- b. Utilize social media, radio, television, and newspapers to broaden the scope of MUI Fatwa communication. This is essential to make information more accessible to the public, particularly in remote areas or for those with limited access to information.
- c. Provide training and outreach regarding the MUI Fatwa to Indonesian health personnel and vaccination agents. This can assist them in comprehending and explaining the MUI Fatwa guidelines to members of the Muslim community who desire vaccination.
- d. Engage clerics and other religious leaders in formulating MUI Fatwas and disseminating the COVID-19 vaccination policy. This can increase the legitimacy of the MUI Fatwa and the Muslim community's confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine.

An article titled "The Role of the Indonesian Council of Ulama (MUI) in Promoting COVID-19 Vaccination Acceptance Among the Muslim Community" is published in a scientific publication that explores efforts to increase the participation of the MUI Fatwa in the COVID-19 vaccination policy in Indonesia. The study is part of a larger body of work that examines these efforts. The article demonstrates that one of the things that can be done is to increase outreach and education to the Muslim community regarding the significance of the COVID-19 vaccination and its benefits for both individual and public health in general. In addition, a more indepth explanation of the MUI fatwa regarding the COVID-19 vaccine should also be provided. (Wahyuni; Setiawan; & Rasyid, 2021)

In addition, the article emphasizes the significance of coordination between the MUI and other relevant parties, such as the government and health institutions, to guarantee that the directives outlined in the MUI fatwa can be appropriately incorporated into the COVID-19 vaccination policy. As a result, it is envisaged that the contribution of the MUI Fatwa to the COVID-19 vaccination policy in Indonesia can be more effective and that the Muslim community can achieve a deeper level of comprehension regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

An article titled "The Role of Islamic Scholars in Overcoming Vaccine Hesitancy in the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Indonesian Experience" was published in a scientific journal that addresses efforts to increase the participation of the MUI Fatwa in the COVID-19 vaccination policy in Indonesia. This paper is part of a more extensive discussion about these efforts. According to the information presented in the article, attempts to expand the contribution made by MUI Fatwa can be made by strengthening the cooperation between MUI Fatwa and the health institutions in Indonesia. Additionally, including a more significant number of health specialists and religious experts in the process of formulating MUI Fatwas has the potential to increase the quality of MUI Fatwas and improve their overall balance. In addition, the essay highlights how essential it is for all sectors of the Muslim community in Indonesia to have access to and receive knowledge regarding MUI Fatwas. (Nisa & Muthmainnah, 2021)

D. CONCLUSION

Following the conversation that has taken place, one can conclude that the MUI Fatwa has made a significant contribution to helping government policies surrounding COVID-19 immunization in Indonesia. This can be deduced from the fact that this contribution has been considered. As a result, the Muslim community in Indonesia may use the fatwa issued by the MUI as a point of reference when deciding whether or not to embrace the COVID-19 vaccine. However, implementing the MUI Fatwa in Indonesia has several shortcomings and challenges. Some examples of these shortcomings and challenges include the lack of public understanding of the MUI Fatwa, the lack of coordination between the MUI Fatwa and health institutions, and differences of opinion among religious experts regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. Therefore, efforts are required to continue increasing MUI Fatwa's contribution to the COVID-19 vaccination policy in Indonesia. These efforts can take the form of providing information that is clearer and more detailed about the COVID-19 vaccine, involving a more significant number of health experts and religious experts in the process of preparing

the MUI Fatwa and increasing access to and distribution of information regarding MUI Fatwas to all levels of Muslim society in Indonesia.

After analyzing the benefits and drawbacks of the contribution made by the MUI Fatwa to the COVID-19 vaccination policy in Indonesia, it was discovered that the MUI Fatwa has the potential to be an essential factor in strengthening Muslim public confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine. Nevertheless, there are shortcomings and difficulties in the execution of the MUI Fatwa that need to be addressed so that it can be more effective in aiding the objectives of the Indonesian government regarding COVID-19 immunization.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the discussion that has been carried out, the following are some suggestions and recommendations that can be taken regarding the contribution of the MUI Fatwa to the COVID-19 vaccination policy in Indonesia:

- a. Increasing the involvement of religious and health experts in drafting the MUI Fatwa regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.
- b. Improved coordination between MUI Fatwas and health institutions in disseminating information about the COVID-19 vaccine to the public.
- c. Increasing understanding and dissemination of the MUI Fatwa widely to the Muslim community in Indonesia, either through social media, mass media, or discussion forums.
- d. Increased supervision of the dissemination of incorrect or inaccurate information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, both through social media and mass media.
- e. Increased efforts to overcome differences of opinion among religious experts regarding the COVID-19 vaccine by conducting dialogue and open discussion.
- f. Provision of easier access and distribution of information regarding MUI Fatwas to all levels of Muslim society in Indonesia.
- g. Preparation of practical guidelines for religious leaders and community leaders in providing education about the COVID-19 vaccine to the public.

It is intended that by putting these proposals and recommendations into action, the MUI Fatwa's contribution to the COVID-19 vaccination strategy in Indonesia will be able to be more effective in assisting with the rise of public confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine and the increase of vaccination rates in Indonesia.

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