



# Media Framing and COVID-19 Infodemic in News Headlines of Indonesian Online Newspapers

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## Abstract

The purpose of this study was to identify how newspaper headlines framed the COVID-19 infodemic in Indonesia. This study collected headlines from [Republika.co.id](http://Republika.co.id), an influential national online mass media with a wide coverage of news readers. Data were collected by tracing news portals directly about the COVID-19 infodemic published from January 1 to March 31, 2021. This study used framing analysis to classify the news frames displayed on Covid 19 news titles in Indonesian newspapers. The results showed that there were 1,831 headlines framing the Covid 19 infodemic in the [Republika.co.id](http://Republika.co.id) newspaper in Indonesia. There are at least five frames used for COVID-19, they were (1) public health, (2) policy, (3) economic, (4) political, and (5) cultural and religious. The public health frame uses approximately 79.14 percent of the total news, which focused on the causes, effects, spread, and number of victims, as well as measures to overcome the COVID-19 outbreak. This frame showed the trend of news that still revolves around the development of the number of COVID-19 patients to news about COVID-19 vaccinations carried out throughout Indonesia, and represents the government's efforts to ensure public health and reduce public concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic. Implications for research and practice included recognizing the impact of media framing on public perceptions and responses during the pandemic, and recommendations involved collaborative efforts between policymakers and media to develop effective communication strategies and media literacy programs to combat misinformation. Limitations includes the focus on a single media source, necessitating broader media analysis for comprehensive insights.

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**Keywords:** COVID-19; frames; news headlines; online newspapers; news framing

## Introduction

News reports about COVID-19 rapidly proliferated in the media, marking the onset of heightened public awareness and media coverage surrounding the emerging pandemic. As information about the novel

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coronavirus and its impact began to surface, international news outlets started devoting significant attention to the evolving situation. Reports encompassed various aspects, including the increasing number of cases, the global spread of the virus, the healthcare challenges faced by affected regions, government responses, and the potential implications on public health and the economy. The extensive media coverage played a crucial role in disseminating information, raising awareness, and shaping public discourse around the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 had thus spread in all media, including online news, newspapers, radio, television, and even social media (Tangcharoensathien et al., 2020). The Indonesian health officials encouraged the public to comply with Large-Scale Social Restrictions for global travelers (Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Los Angeles, 2021; U.S. Embassy Jakarta, 2021).

COVID-19 attracted the attention of mass and social media in 2020 (Indonesia Indicator, 2020; Nursalikhah, 2020). The Indonesia Indicator (I2), a Media Intelligence company using Artificial Intelligence (AI) software, noted that from January 1 to December 15, 2020, the number of reports related to COVID-19 issues reached 5,465,266 news (Nursalikhah, 2020). Director of Communications I2, Rustika Herlambang stated that COVID-19 was also the driver of the high production of news in 2020, which reached 20,126,471 news articles from 4,419 Indonesian online media, or doubled compared to the number of news articles in 2019. In total, the issue of COVID-19 fills 27% of all news production activity in the media in 2020. The Indonesia Indicator (I2) noted that there were 10 of online media outlets that were most actively reporting on COVID-19 issues of throughout 2020. *Republika.co.id* ranked first, with the number of news articles reaching 100,748. The second position was occupied by *Tribunnews.com*, with 82,183 news articles. *Kompas.com* was in the third position, with 80,967 news stories. *Kumparan.com* occupied the fourth position with 72,308 news articles, and *Detik.com* occupied the fifth position with 69,815 news articles.

The COVID-19 pandemic witnessed the use of technology and social media in abundance with the primary purpose to disseminate information about the disease, its prevention and keeping people safe and connected. Such fast-spreading information sometimes leads to misinformation and disinformation. It was evident that this COVID-19 discourse amplified into an infodemic and threatened to undermine and jeopardize all pandemic controlling measures. The World Health Organization (WHO) defined infodemic as abundance of information, both online and offline, “a deliberate attempt to disseminate wrong information to undermine the public health response and advance alternative agenda of groups or individuals.” The Organization cautioned public against misinformation and disinformation as it can mislead them about the disease and reduce the effectiveness of the efforts being made by the health authorities to stop the pandemic.

Infodemic comes under media framing which is a component of discourse analysis. Media framing is a kind of abuse of language by media personnel and media houses to misrepresent any news or activity for their vested interest or to form a public opinion in favor or against. With the expansion of social media and the use of internet, the news about COVID-19 also spread out globally due to media framing, with mixed versions. It was difficult to determine whether any information was false or not. When this over-abundance of information changed into infodemic, it intensified the outbreak at many places. People were unsure about what they need to do to protect their health and the health of people around them.

Hence, there was a need to initiate infodemic management campaigns as a systematic, risk- and evidence-based analysis to manage the infodemic and reduce its impact on public health behaviors. There is a dearth of studies in this direction in both linguistic and nonlinguistic domains. The current study aimed to fill this research gap to find out how media can be stopped from misrepresenting the facts and frame false public perception; how to build resilience to misinformation and engage and empower communities to take positive action; and how to manage situations like infodemic and help promote healthy behaviors and mitigate the harm from misinformation and disinformation. Various directions deal with the global COVID-19 pandemic also mentioned in various mass media. Actually, this information will influence public perception since the perception of societies related to COVID-19 is determined by information about the risks and threats in media (Sandell, Sebar, & Harris, 2013).

## Problem Statement and Theoretical Framework

Framing, in the fields of communication and media, functions in two ways: (1) framing as a theory and (2) framing as a research methodology (D'Angelo & Kuypers, 2009). As a theory, framing has a proposition, as stated by Erving Goffman, that the world of reality is too broad and abstract for humans to understand; therefore, it is necessary to solve reality so that humans can understand it (de Vreese, 2014). As a research methodology, framing has units of analysis, indicators, and models that can be used by researchers who want to analyze the content or text of a communication. Framing methodology is common in media text research as it can be used for many purposes including analyzing policy/speech texts, policy-making processes, and formation of social movements. Several framing analysis methods have been developed to serve as useful guides (de Vreese, 2014; Entman, 2007; Eriyanto, 2012; Fahrimal, 2018; Scheufele & Iyengar, 2017).

Theoretically, the significance of media framing has evolved from agenda setting theory, which is applicable to several fields of learning like psychology, sociology, anthropology, politics, and communication. Agenda-setting

theory is based on at least two premises: (1) the public's view of reality is influenced by media exposure and (2) the public will consider an issue or event important only if the media says it is important (McQuail, 2011). The level to which something is important for the general public is determined by the intensity of the media coverage. In setting an agenda, the media uses framing techniques to determine how an issue is packaged and conveyed to the public. According to Shoemaker and Reese (1996), framing and agenda-setting techniques are determined by various factors originating from internal and external media and influencing each other, such as political systems, sociocultural pressures, economic structures, and ideological struggles.

The abundance of information in mass media related to COVID-19 was seen as the potential to cause an infodemic, making it difficult to distinguish between true and false information. The WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, stated that the infodemic is a new challenge in handling COVID-19 because the public's right to obtain accurate information is difficult to fulfill (Tangcharoensathien et al., 2020). It was reiterated that misinformation will cost heavily on public lives, health and money. Examples were cited when, in the absence of correct information, diagnostic tests went unused, immunization campaigns failed to meet targets, and virus continued to thrive. Furthermore, disinformation polarized public debate on topics related to COVID-19; amplified hate speech; heightened the risk of conflict, violence and human rights violations; and threatened long-term prospects for advancing democracy, human rights and social cohesion.

Media framing and news coverage of COVID-19 by newspapers is an interesting subject in discourse analysis. In this context, news coverage of COVID-19 in newspapers, particularly in the online media landscape of Indonesia, assumes significance as a primary source of information for the public. Understanding the frames used in COVID-19 news headlines and articles can provide valuable insights into how the media shapes public perceptions, emotions, and decision-making during a pandemic. As a public institution, mass media plays a significant role in disaster situations (Sellnow & Seeger, 2013). The media can be said to be a place of information flow and a source of information. Moreover, information and opinions released by journalists can influence the public's perception of Thompson (2014); therefore, it will determine the actions they take. The pattern of media coverage and the point of view used by the media influence public interpretation, because the media, according to McQuail (2011), is a central actor in the formation of public opinion and directing public awareness. It would be very interesting if collaborative research on COVID-19 were carried out in the frame of news headlines in Indonesian newspapers.

News frames have attracted many researchers (Anyanwu, Okpevra, & Imiti, 2022; Papacharissi & de Fatima Oliveira, 2008; Shen, 2004). Previous studies have focused on different subjects, such as Papacharissi and de Fatima Oliveira (2008), focusing on newsframes related to terrorism, while Anyanwu, Okpevra, and Imiti (2022) focus on the news headline related to COVID-19. On the other hand, the current study has an objective of exploring the type of framing of the COVID-19 infodemic in the news headlines of online newspapers in Indonesia. This study aims to find and analyze the type of framing of the COVID-19 infodemic in the news headlines of online newspapers in Indonesia. The framing of mass media is the organization of a central theme that connects various news elements, such as titles, headlines, and quotes, into a coherent whole. Media frames help readers understand new experiences and relate them to their existing assumptions.

## Literature Review

Research conducted by Basnyat and Lee (2015) found that in reporting the H1N1 virus pandemic, the mass media in Singapore used four themes in the news frame: (1) the theme of imported diseases related to the origin of the virus; (2) the metaphorical theme of war or battle as a policy frame for handling the virus; (3) the theme of social responsibility to show the importance of collective action; and (4) the theme of the lockdown policy to encourage government policymaking. Adekunle and Adnan (2016) examined the news frames used by two media outlets in Nigeria to report the Ebola virus outbreak. Their research used several indicators as frames in media. It can be classified into causes and transmission frames, treatment and control/containment frames, fear and death frames, sabotage and conspiracy frames, effect frames, sensitization/mobilization frames, government influence/politics frames, consolation and support/aid frames, rumor and misinformation frames, and stigmatization/discrimination frames.

Bursztyn, Rao, Roth, and Yanagizawa-Drott (2020) stated that the media has the potential to make mistakes in reporting on COVID-19, and the public may be put at greater danger. Based on the results of his research on two Fox News television programs, Hannity and Tucker Carlson, audiences who watched Carlson's talk show tended to be more prepared to deal with COVID-19 than audiences who watched Hannity's talk show. Carlson first warned the public about the risks of COVID-19 and the need for preventive measures, while Hannity rejected various speculations and indications of the rapid spread of COVID-19. As stated by Romano, Sotis, Dominioni, and Guidi (2020), small differences in the framing of COVID-19 news have a significantly impact the public. Therefore, it is important for the media to reduce errors in the delivery of COVID-19 information in order to avoid public response errors. The media and government should not only focus on what is informed, but it is also important to understand how that information is communicated.

Fahrimal (2018) reported that COVID-19 in Indonesian media uses two dominant frames: (1) public health frames to show aspects of the victims, risks, and threats of COVID-19 and (2) policy frames to frame the government's strategy in handling COVID-19. This research recommends that media and journalists use narratives that build hope and provide solutions for the public because the COVID-19 disaster increases audience uncertainty. Moreover, a study conducted by Yuniawan, Rokhman, Rustono, and Hakim (2020) regarding "An Analysis of Illocutionary Speech Acts of Government Officials of the Republic of Indonesia in the Face of the Coronavirus Disease 19 Global Pandemic" concluded that illocutionary acts of speech by government officials of the Republic of Indonesia in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic include representative/assertive, directive, expressive, commissive, and declaration. This study also shows the seriousness of the Indonesian government in dealing with the global COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, Yuniawan, Rokhman, Rustono, and Hakim (2020) reported that there are five types of imperative speech used during COVID-19 a governor in Java. The imperatives found were (1) prohibition imperative speech, (2) insistence imperative speech, (3) invitation imperative speech, (4) request imperative speech, and (5) appeal imperative speech.

Communication and media studies experts place framing as a process in which events/issues are framed by the media that influences opinion formation in society (Eriyanto, 2012; Scheufele & Iyengar, 2017). Entman (2007) stated that framing is a media strategy to eliminate some elements in news while emphasizing other elements. The pattern of reduction and prominence of certain elements can influence the audience's interpretation, judgment, way of thinking, and actions. The process of framing comprises various steps, the first of which is frame building. The interaction between actors who deal with the media during this stage relates to the strategy of framing and how the issue is presented in the news. The second step is frame-setting. Frame setting refers to the interaction between media frames, knowledge, and predisposing frameworks at the individual level. The third step is frame consequences. The consequences of media framing can be observed at the individual and community levels. Individually, framing can have an impact on changing attitudes and individual perceptions of an issue, while at the community level, framing has an impact on the emergence of collective action to make joint decisions (Entman, 2007). The results from text analysis with framing analysis can be both interesting and clear in the most transparent, communicative way, and provide a framework for media depictions of reality (McQuail, 2011).

Framing analysis, which was initiated by Erving Goffman in the fields of psychology and sociology and later drawn into communication studies by Robert N. Entman, has been used extensively and has proven important in communication studies with a focus on contemporary issues such as health, crises, the environment, and disasters (Thompson, 2014). Framing analysis comprises two main categories. The first category is media content/text studies, which focus on identifying and categorizing frame themes using a critical approach. Framing analysis with a research focus on media content analysis has been widely produced and may continue to be produced by researchers. The second category is the analysis of news framing effects. Effect analysis studies involve a wider audience to examine the impact of news coverage on audience perceptions, attitudes, and behavior. Studies on audience responses to an issue as a result of media coverage were also included in the framing effect study category. Through the study of the framing effect, it is possible for researchers to see the various stages in media agenda-setting, ranging from the media agenda, the public agenda, and the policy agenda (McQuail, 2011).

## Methodology

### • *Research Design*

The study used a mixed method research design to analyze media frames in reports on COVID-19 infodemic. In the qualitative phase, the study combined computerized content analysis with discourse analysis since it allowed this study to explore the underlying meanings, ideologies, power structures, and social dynamics that shaped the language used in these sources.

### • *Sampling*

This study focused on *Republika.co.id* newspapers over a three-month period, including news reports and news analyses. This newspaper was sampled because it featured high readership and was influential in setting the tone of coverage in Indonesia. These newspapers were chosen because it included broader coverage of COVID-19 case and related international news.

### • *Data Source*

The data for this research included headlines of news suspected of presenting COVID-19 in online newspaper media in Indonesia. The data source for this research was the newspaper *Republika.co.id* in Indonesia, which supplied headlines for this study from January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021, which determines the next steps in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic crisis). As a means of collecting the relevant data for this study, purposive sampling was utilized and *Republika.co.id* was chosen after considering the following factors: (1) national online



mass media, (2) ownership, (3) there are COVID-19 titles; and (4) the most active and productive online media spreading COVID-19 issues throughout 2020. *Republika.co.id* was ranked first with the number of news articles reaching 100,748 news items (5) reaching all Indonesian people (6), covering very large news coverage. This activity was performed during the data collection. If deemed inappropriate, conclusions are extracted from the field notes (Miles & Huberman, 1992; Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2018).

However, there might be several limitations that can potentially affect the data collection in this research, including the focus on only one newspaper, namely *Republika.co.id*, which may restrict the generalizability of the findings to other media outlets. Relying solely on headlines for framing analysis could overlook important contextual information provided in the body of the articles. The use of purposive sampling to select the newspaper may introduce selection bias, as other influential newspapers with different perspectives on COVID-19 could have been excluded.

#### • Data Analysis

The technique of informally presenting the data analysis findings was employed in this study. The informal presentation method was formulated, despite its terminology and technical nature (Sudaryanto, 2015). Upon gathering the pertinent data for this investigation, the collected data underwent framing analysis. This analytical approach was chosen due to its aptitude in assembling news encompassing causal elements, prognostications, remedies, and attributions of accountability for specific events. News framing not only embodies a tonal quality akin to music but also employs metaphorical linguistic constructs, including both ominous and reassuring diction (Lakoff, Dean, & Hazen, 2004).

Semetko and Valkenburg (2000) classify news framing analysis into five distinct frames, comprising conflict, responsibility, economic ramifications, human allure, and moral dimensions. Additionally, Vliegthart and Van Zoonen (2011) posit that media frequently frame narratives in accordance with information provided by sources, yet journalists are tasked with refining and sustaining the framing of news headlines to enhance appeal and longevity. Consequently, framing can be conceptualized as an outcome of a reciprocal negotiation process between media outlets and their information sources.

In conclusion, framing analysis emerged as a pivotal methodology in comprehending the nuances of news dissemination. Its ability to encapsulate causal, predictive, and accountable elements, along with its expressive use of linguistic devices, underscores its significance in shaping news narratives. Semetko and Valkenburg's frame classification, along with the journalistic imperative to sustain engaging framing, further highlights the dynamic interplay between media outlets and sources. Consequently, framing analysis unveils itself as a critical tool for deciphering the intricate negotiations underlying news representation.

## Results

This study analyzed COVID-19 infodemic frames in the headlines of *Republika.co.id* newspaper media reports in Indonesia. To gain the sympathy of many readers, journalists usually adopt the style of writing news headlines with clickbait tricks to attract readers' attention so that they gain popularity and trending topics for the media. According to Welbers et al. (2016), clickbait aims to attract a wider audience by managing curiosity about news headlines. Clickbait can be a strategy to capture the reader's market so that the media can gain financial benefits (Harcup & O'Neill, 2017; Zuhroh & Rakhmawati, 2019). in online media. Therefore, online newspapers should compete to provide the most current news about pandemics such as COVID-19, where the need for public information is increasing. It also improves the information-seeking actions of various channels and media. Fulfilling COVID-19 information from online newspaper news is not only carrying out journalistic obligations, but also aiming to increase the number of readers and economic benefits.

Based on the results of the data analysis, there were 1,831 news headlines framing the COVID-19 infodemic in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper. From this data, it is known that there are more uses of public health frames in the COVID-19 news headlines, it is 1,454 news titles or 79.14 percent of the total news. The second frame category was the policy frame of 250 news titles (13.65%). The economic frame comprised 47 news titles (2.57%); the political and cultural/religious frames were the same, 40 (2.18%) news titles each. The distribution of the comparison of the number of news title frames can be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Framing Categories of News Headline of COVID-19 from *Republika.co.id*

No.	Category News Headline Frame	Number of News Headline	Percentage (%)
(January-February-March 2021)			
1	Public Health Frame	1,454	79.41
2	Policy Frames	250	13.65
3	Economic Frames	47	2.57
4	Political Frames	40	2.18
5	Cultural and Religious Frames	40	2.18
	Total	1,831	100

Source: Research Results

- **Public Health Frames**

The findings revealed that the public health frame was the highest framing in the headline of the COVID-19 news in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper from January to March 2021. The framing focused on: (1) causes, (2) effects, (3) spread, (4) number of victims, and (5) countermeasures against the COVID-19 outbreak. In the public health frame that focused on the causes of COVID-19, the headlines run like this: (1) Fatigue, 95 Percent Of Health Workers Worried About Being Exposed To COVID-19 (date 02-2021); (2) COVID-19 Mutation Type Suspected of Accelerating Transmission in Balikpapan (date 02-2021); (3) WHO Does Not Ignore Alleged Lab Leaks Trigger the Emergence of COVID-19 (date 02-2021); (4) Transmission of COVID: Not Linked to PPKM, but Behavior (date 02-2021); and (5) Like Wear a Mask Hanger? Beware of These Health Risks (date 03-2021)

Within the public health frame, headlines focused on the effects of COVID-19, which read like this : (6) Parosmia, New Symptoms of COVID-19 Related to the Ability to Smell (date 01-2021); (7) Eva Longoria Says She Experienced Anxiety During the Pandemic (date 01-2021); (8) The Highest Deaths of Indonesian Health Workers Due to COVID-19 in Asia (date 01-2021); (9) Long COVID sufferers are said to have memory problems (date 01-2021); (10) Types of Skin Rashes Signs of COVID-19 (date 01-2021); (11) These are the three causes of the emergence of thrush in COVID-19 patients (date 02-2021); (12) Study: COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts Stress on Children (date 02-2021); (13) Hundreds of COVID-19 Positive Students, Islamic Boarding Schools Quarantined (date 02-2021); (14) Psychiatry: COVID-19 Survivors Can Experience Psychological Distortion (date 02-2021); (15) Preventing COVID-19, 2,372 Peruri Employees Undergo Antigen Swab (date 02-2021)

On the spread of COVID-19 outbreak, the headlines stated: (20) Continuously Increase, 735,124 COVID-19 Cases Occur in Indonesia (date 01-2021); (21) Pandemic, Widening Quality Education Inequality (date 01-2021); (22) Cilacap Experiences Another COVID-19 Cluster in Islamic Boarding Schools (date 01-2021); (23) Five other KPK Detainees Found Positive for COVID-19 (date 01-2021); (24) Ahead of Chinese New Year, COVID-19 Cases Soared in Northeast China (date 01-2021); (25) COVID-19 Patients Exploding, Depok Hospital Lacks Nurses (date 01-2021); (26) WHO: New Variant of Corona Virus Spread to 70 Countries (date 01-2021); (27) New strain of SARS-CoV-2 Produces Different Symptoms? (date 01-2021); (28) Epidemiologist: Without Restrictions, COVID-19 is Getting Out of Control (date 02-2021); (29) Dishonest Patients are Assessed as Triggers for the Spread of COVID-19 (date 02-2021); (30) Positive Numbers Rise, Village Volunteers Are Asked to Be Active Against Covid (date 02-2021); (31) The COVID-19 Trend is Flat, Active Cases are Still High (date 02-2021); (32) Anies Reminds of Potential Spike in COVID Cases After Chinese New Year Holiday (date 02-2021); (33) WHO Didn't Ignore Alleged Lab Leaks Triggered the Emergence of COVID-19 (date 02-2021); (34) Manado City is Still in High Risk Status for COVID-19 Transmission (date 02-2021); (35) COVID-19 is Predicted to Increase in 3 Weeks, Ministry of Health Does This (date 02-2021); (36) Prospective Passengers at Cirebon Station Have More GeNose Tests (date 03-2021); (37) Cases of Covid B117 Increase in Indonesia (date 03-2021); (38) The increment of Riau COVID-19 cases is dominated by family clusters (date 03-2021); (39) One resident of Bogor City is infected with Corona B117 (date 03-2021); (40) The emergence of Islamic boarding school clusters in Tasikmalaya is difficult to prevent (date 03-2021).

Furthermore, on the number of victims of the COVID-19 outbreak, headlines said: (42) COVID-19 Update: Indonesia Adds 6,877 Positive Cases (date 01-2021); (43) New Daily Cases of COVID-19 Breaks 11,000 (date 01-2021); (44) Wiku: Active Cases Reached 146,842 People (date 01-2021); (45) Office Cluster Contributes 60 Percent of COVID-19 Cases (date 02-2021); (46) DKI Burials 13,300 COVID-19 Bodies Since the Beginning of the Pandemic (date 02-2021); (47) The Increase in Positive Cases in West Java Reaches Nearly 100 Percent (date 02-2021); (48) Deaths Due to COVID-19 in Bandung 200 People Dominate the Elderly (date 02-2021); (49) 3,477 COVID-19 patients are still being treated at the Wisma Atlet (date 03-2021); (50) In Picture: 10,000 Ministry of Transportation Employees Receive COVID-19 Vaccination (date 03-2021); (51) 700 Rangkasbitung Market Traders Ready for Vaccination (date 03-2021); (52) Central Kalimantan Provincial Government Vaccines 5,000 Public Service Officers (date 03-2021).

Under the Public Health frame, headlines that dealt with countermeasures to the COVID-19 outbreak included: (53) UI Vocational Creates a Public Administration Platform to Overcome the Pandemic (date 01-2021); (54) Ridwan Kamil Asks Ulama to Be Involved in Vaccination in West Java (date 01-2021); (55) Activity Restrictions Applies, Prokes Discipline Must Be Obeyed (date 01-2021); (56) Limited Tightening of Community Activities in Yogyakarta (date 01-2021); (57) IDI: Strengthen COVID-19 Handling Upstream and Downstream (date 01-2021); (58) Medan Holds COVID-19 Vaccination in the Middle of a Spike in Cases (date 01-2021); (59) WHO Reinforces the Effectiveness of Masks to Prevent COVID-19 (date 01-2021); (60) Kemayoran Hospital Gives Tips Before Receiving COVID-19 Vaccine (date 01-2021); (61) COVID-19 Task Force Reminds the Danger of Family Clusters in Bantul (date 01-2021); (62) Vice President Asks People to Obey PPKM and Vaccination (date 02-2021); (63) DPR Asks the Government to Re-formulate the Handling of COVID-19 (date 02-2021); (64) Epidemiologist: Society Continues to Increase Covid Alertness (date 02-2021); (65) Respondcovid.id Invites the Public to Know more about COVID-19 (date 02-2021); (66) To prevent COVID-19, PMI Depok Sprays Disinfectant at 944 Points (date 02-2021); (67) Minister of Health: Need Private Assistance for One Million Vaccinations per Day (date 02-2021); (68) Jokowi Wants Accelerated Covid Vaccination (date 02-2021); (69) Sukamiskin

Prison Holds Swab Test After 6 Positive Covid People (date 02-2021); (71) Increase the Effectiveness of PPKM, COVID-19 Task Force Contrives Command Posts (date 02-2021); (72) To Prevent COVID-19, Nusa Mandiri Lecturer Designs a Distance Sensor (date 02-2021); (73) Covid Handling Facilities Continue to be Added (date 02-2021); (74) Polda DIY Continues to Socialize the Implementation of Health Protocols (date 02-2021); (75) Reducing the COVID-19 Rate, Temanggung Holds Raid The People Who Held the Wedding Party (date 02-2021); (76) Handling COVID-19, There is a Shelter House in the Village of Antapani. (date 02-2021); (77) Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture: RT/RW Must Be COVID-19 Informants (date 02-2021); (78) DPR Strives for Supervision and Implementation of Vaccination Programs (date 02-2021); (79) Bandung City Covid Task Force Increases Patrol on Chinese New Year Holidays (date 02-2021); (80) To prevent COVID-19, Kadin urges employees to postpone long trips (date 02-2021); (81) Depok Regional Hospital Launches COVID-19 Biomolecular PCR Laboratory (date 02-2021); (82) Jokowi Asks Local Government to Distribute Masks to the Community (date 02-2021); (83) Chinese New Year Holiday, Anies urges residents to stay at home (date 02-2021); (84) Covid Pandemic, Bogor Street Festival Cap Go Meh Not Held (date 02-2021); (85) People are Reminded to Always Obey Health protocol (date 02-2021); (86) During the Pandemic, Sukabumi City Government Boosts Social Service Actions (date 02-2021); (87) BIN Holds a Swab Test in the Red Zone of Bogor Regency (date 02-2021); (88) TNI-Polri Reminded to Socialize Vaccination Humanely (date 02-2021); (89) Polri is Ready to Succeed in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program (date 02-2021); (90) Bekasi Regency Government Closes Places of Worship in Red Zone RW (date 02-2021); (91) PMI Surabaya Distributes Thousands of Convalescent Plasma Bags (date 02-2021); (92) UN Approves AstraZeneca Vaccine for Emergency Use (date 02-2021); (93) COVID-19 Task Force Launches SE Formation of Village Command Post (date 02-2021); (94) Jokowi Asks for an Enlarged Portion of the Regional Budget for COVID-19 (date 02-2021).

These headlines show the trend of news that still revolved around the development of the number of COVID-19 patients to news about COVID-19 vaccinations carried out throughout Indonesia. These reports specifically discussed the increase in the number of COVID-19 patients during the period from January to March 2021. Based on the analysis of the health frame data, focusing on the causes, effects, spread, number of victims, and measures to overcome the COVID-19 outbreak, this study showed that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the health sector showed the level of health was declining because many people were exposed to COVID-19 and many people were stressed because of worry and fear of contracting the coronavirus, which decreases the immune system.

From the analysis of the health frame data in the titles of COVID-19 news in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper, it was presented that COVID-19 could cause disturbances in the respiratory system, acute pneumonia, and even death. The coronavirus was first detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019, attacking the respiratory system and infecting anyone, such as infants, children, adults, and the elderly. Moreover, they are at greater risk for pregnant women, the elderly, people with certain diseases, and those with a weak immune system. The new or mutated type of coronavirus has a high transmission rate and has spread globally in other countries, including Indonesia. Common symptoms of infection with this virus are runny nose, sore throat, cough, fever, and shortness of breath. Very fast transmission through direct or indirect contact between individuals can cause many victims to fall. This has an impact on public fear and concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Managing public fears and concerns is an old practice commonly used by the media, either in creating fears or simply in controlling existing fears (Lowrey et al., 2007).

- **Government Policy Frame**

The Government Policy Frame in the COVID-19 news title ranks second, as the frame that appeared most often in *Republika.co.id* newspapers in Indonesia. Judging from the fact that COVID-19 has become a pandemic, news based on government policy frames often became news that readers must attend to and wait for. In addition to representing that one of the functions of newspapers is as a media for delivering information or as a funnel of information from the government to the public, news headlines with government policy frames can also provide education to the public about what the community should do in accordance with government directives. This government policy frame focuses on the central and local government policy frames.

The central government's policy frame in dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak can be seen in these headlines: (95) The Government Distributes 1.2 Million Vaccines to Regions (date 01-2021); (96) Suppress COVID-19, Government Tightens Community Activities (date 01-2021); (97) The Government Has Prepared Steps to Anticipate a Spike in Cases (date 01-2021); (98) Vice President Initiates Vaccine Obligation Fatwa (date 01-2021); (99) Support Vaccination, Ministry of Communication and Information Speeds up Internet Access for Health Facilities (date 01-2021); (100) Jokowi Targets COVID-19 Vaccination in Less than a Year (date 01-2021); (101) The Ministry of Transportation Issues Regulations on the Use of Genose at Train Stations (date 01-2021); (102) Ministry of Health Allows All Hospitals to Open COVID-19 Patient Services (date 01-2021); (103) The Government's New Strategy, Forming a Village Level COVID-19 Command Post (date 02-2021); (104) The Government will Issue a Mutual Cooperation Vaccine Regulation (date 02-2021); (105) Jokowi Asks for Pandemic Handling Using a Micro Approach (date 02-2021); (106) President Wants to Expand Mass Vaccination for Healthcare Workers (date 02-2021); (107) Efforts by the Ministry of Health to Secure Stock of COVID-19 Vaccines (date 03-2021); (108) Minister of Health Intensify Antigen Testing in Micro PPKM (date 03-2021); (109) The Government Enters Antigen Results in the COVID-19 Daily Report (date 03-2021).

The local government's policy frame in dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak can be seen in these headlines: (110) Gresik Regency Government urges Schools to Delay Face-to-Face Learning (date 01-2021); (111) At the beginning of the year, the Cirebon City Government again applies WFO and WFH (date 01-2021); (112) DKI Provincial Government Tightens PSBB until January 25, 2021 (date 01-2021); (113) Ridwan Kamil proposes house-to-house vaccination (date 01-2021); (114) Tulungagung Regency begins to apply Micro PPKM (date 02-2021); (115) Anies Requires Isolation of COVID-19 Patients at Health Facilities (date 02-2021); (116) Yogyakarta City Government Targets Vaccination of 46 Thousand Elderly (date 03-2021); (117) Governor of Babel Forms Team for Acceleration of COVID-19 Vaccination (date 03-2021); (118) Denpasar Mayor: Tourists Must Be Free of COVID-19 in the Green Zone (date 03-2021); (119) Bekasi Health Office Discourses on Pick-up for Vaccination for the Elderly (date 03-2021).

Based on the above data, the government's policy framework for dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak in the headlines of the COVID-19 news in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper in Indonesia relates to recommendations, invitations, instructions, persuasion, and policies submitted by the central and local governments. With the narrative of recommendations and instructions, the public will know what they must do and the extent to which the government has worked to tackle COVID-19 in Indonesia. The results of the study show that the government's communication practices are sometimes still confusing, making the impact of these recommendations and instructions difficult for the public to accept. *Republika.co.id* newspaper. Simply being the government's Public Relations officer in charge of disseminating information on recommendations, appeals, and steps to prevent and deal with COVID-19.

On the other hand, the government's policy frame in the titles of COVID-19 news in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper presents hope and solutions for the COVID-19 outbreak. This narrative is useful for the public in dealing with pandemics. Additionally, trust enhances public obedience. All government policies dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic will be in vain if there is no public obedience. For example, recommendations for vaccination, swab tests, isolation, quarantine, enforcement of restrictions on community activities, large-scale social restrictions, face-to-face learning, COVID-19 emergency status are needed to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the community. Without public compliance or obedience, the recommendation is merely a suggestion. Therefore, it is important for the government to gain public trust through information on hopes and solutions that will be amplified by the media as a bridge and government partner in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Economic Frames**

The Economic Frame in the headlines of the COVID-19 news in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper can be found in a total of 47 headlines with a percentage of 2.57%. This indicates that, as the government stated since the beginning of the pandemic, COVID-19 was not only harmful to public health but also to the economy of the community and the state. The economic policy frame during the COVID-19 pandemic in the news headlines in the *Republika* newspaper can also be seen: (120) 2 Million MSMEs (Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) Entering Digital During the Pandemic (date 02-2021); (121) Vaccination Requires IDR 73 T, Minister of Finance Ensures Availability of Funds (date 01-2021); (122) COVID-19 Needs Increase, Government Refocuses Spending (date 01-2021); (123) Sri Mulyani Expects COVID-19 Vaccine Budget to Increase (date 01-2021); (124) BPS(Central Agency on Statistics): January inflation 0.26 Percent, the impact of Covid is still felt (date 02-2021); (125) Mandiri Bank: Vaccine Program Boosts Investor Confidence (date 02-2021); (126) COVID-19 Pandemic, Indramayu Original Local Government Revenue (*PAD*) Reaches 109 Percent (date 02-2021); (127) COVID-19 Caused East Kalimantan's Economy to Drop 2.85 Percent (date 02-2021); (128) Businesses Affected by the Pandemic, 19,384 Workers Affected by Layoffs (date 02-2021); (129) Investment Stretches Grow During the COVID-19 Pandemic (date 02-2021); (130) *PPKM* (Community Activities Restrictions Enforcement) Extended, Restaurant Business Expected to Adapt (date 02-2021); (131) Economist: Social assistance needs to be sharpened to reduce poverty (date 02-2021); (132) COVID-19 Encourages an Increase in Poor Population in East Java (date 02-2021); (133) The Economic Impact of COVID-19 is increasingly being felt in Central Java (date 02-2021); (134) Development Planning Agency at Sub-National Level: COVID-19 Influences Aceh's Economy (date 02-2021); (135) Passion for Vertical Residential Business in the New Normal Era (date 03-2021); (136) The Economic Crisis Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Recovers Faster (date 03-2021); (137) Surabaya City Government Data on Residents Layoff Due to the Pandemic (date 03-2021); (138) The COVID-19 Pandemic Did Not Reduce Weaving Production in Ende (date 03-2021); (139) *BI*: Vaccination Program to Accelerate Economic Recovery (date 03-2021).

Based on these data, it is clear that the media framing of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic was not only related to public health and safety but also to the economy. The discourse narrative of economic policy framing in news headlines in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper, however, focuses on saving the economy. These headlines infer that the government should set policies to overcome people's purchasing power to reduce the risk of layoffs and maintain economic productivity and community productivity throughout Indonesia. All ministers, governors, and mayors should cut spending plans that are not priority expenditures in the State Revenue and Expenditure Budget (*APBN*) or Regional Revenue and Expenditure Budget (*APBD*). Central and regional governments should reallocate their budgets to accelerate the alleviation of the impact of the coronavirus, both in terms of health and the economy. This policy is in accordance with Presidential



Instruction Number 4 of 2020 concerning refocusing activities, budget reallocation, and procurement of goods and services to accelerate the Handling of Covid-2019.

Furthermore, from the analysis of research data, the narrative of economic policy frames in the news headlines in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper shows that the central government and local governments guarantee the availability of basic commodities, followed by ensuring that people's purchasing power is maintained, especially the lower classes, including workers, daily workers, farmers, fishermen, and micro- and small-business actors to maintain their purchasing power. The government has also set a policy for the Cash Work Intensive program to be multiplied while still adhering to the COVID-19 virus prevention protocol, which is maintaining a safe distance from one another. In economic policy, the government accelerates the implementation of pre-employment cards to anticipate workers who are laid off, workers losing their income, and micro-entrepreneurs who lose their market and turnover. The affected communities are expected to improve their competence and quality through pre-employment card training.

In addition, the narrative of the economic policy frame during the COVID-19 pandemic in the news headline in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper shows that the government also pays Article 21 income tax (*PPh*), which has been paid by taxpayer (*WP*) employees in the processing industry. The Financial Services Authority (*OJK*) provides credit relaxation under Rp 10 billion for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (*MSMEs*). Relaxation is in the form of lower interest rates and a year's postponement of installments, from both banks and the non-bank financial industry. In addition, the suspension of installments for a year also applies to motorcycle taxis, taxi drivers, and fishermen with vehicle installments. The government also asks banks and non-bank finance not to pursue debtors of low-income communities who make subsidized housing loans (*KPR*); they will be given a stimulus. The government provides interest subsidies for up to 10 years of installation. If the interest is greater than 5 percent, the government pays the difference in interest. In addition, there is assistance in providing down payment subsidies for subsidized housing loans, with a prepared budget allocation of Rp 1.5 trillion. The central and regional governments at the sub-district and village levels worked together to face economic challenges in the midst of the current pandemic.

- **Political Frames**

The political framing in the COVID-19 headlines in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper can be found related to agencies like Corruption Eradication Commission (*KPK*) in the Initial Stages of Planning for the Procurement of Social Assistance for Covid; Vaccine Nationalism Conflict Strengthens: UK Vs European Union; *KPK* Holds Reconstruction of Alleged Bribery for COVID-19 Social Assistance; Gerindra Deputy Supports the Deployment of *TNI-Polri* to Assist in Vaccination; and Regarding the Pilkada, Anies: Now, let's take care of Covid first. These political frames in the news headlines were more related to the problem of distributing social assistance, political figures who have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, the views of political figures about vaccines, and what then began to bloom is how certain political figures started to build an image and voice their desire to run in the 2024 General Election in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The political framing for reporting COVID-19 was also a means of evaluating the performance of the government or certain political figures during the handling of the pandemic. The political news was heated up when the former Minister of Social Affairs, Juliari Peter Batubara, was proven guilty of corruption in the COVID-19 social assistance fund. In the news entitled Corruption Eradication Commission (*KPK*) in the Initial Stages of Planning for Procurement of Social Assistance for Covid, the reporter for *Republika* described how the Corruption Eradication Commission (*KPK*) carried out investigations into persons involved in corruption. The representation of the choice of title "early stages of procurement planning" is described in detail through quotations from the Acting Spokesperson for the Corruption Eradication Commission (*KPK*), Ali Fikri, one of which is in the paragraph "Not only are investigators also exploring how companies or vendors procuring social assistance related to the handling of COVID-19 19 at the Ministry of Social Affairs (*Kemensos*) get more quotas in distributing social assistance. Investigators have also asked for information from the officials of two vendors, which is the limited liability company (*PT*) Mandala Hamonangan Sude and limited liability company (*PT*) Agri Tekh Sejahtera."

Political framing during the COVID-19 pandemic in news headlines in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper were seen as : (140) East Java COVID-19 Task Force Explores Khofifah's Nearest Ring (date 01-2021); (141) Deputy Chairperson of the People's Consultative Assembly: No Need to Worry About COVID-19 Vaccination (date 01-2021); (142) 15 People Exposed to COVID-19, DKI Jakarta *DPRD* Building Closed (date 01-2021); (5) *PKPI*: COVID-19 Vaccination Hopes for Indonesia to Rise (date 01-2021); (143) *DPR*: Involvement of Epidemiologists to Maximize Covid Handling (date 02-2021); (144) Gerindra Deputy Head Supports the Deployment of *TNI-Polri* to Assist in Vaccination (date 02-2021).

Furthermore, from the analysis of the research data, the political framing discourse in the news headlines in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper focused on political narrative by political elites at both national and local levels, including politicians, members of the council, members of political parties, non-governmental organizations, society and political observers. Essentially, interest groups were almost the same as political

parties, such as the main liaison catalyst between the government and governed (society). It also meant that the function of interest groups was limited to the aggregation and articulation of interests. Interest groups only aimed to influence government policies or authorized political parties to support each activity in accordance with the wishes of the group. Meanwhile, political parties openly aimed to acquire and even control political policies related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Interest groups used various methods to articulate their interests, such as lobbying with bureaucrats, negotiating with politicians, conducting research and petitions, and coordinating movements to perform certain actions. Methods used by interest groups to exert influence can be done through: (1) bureaucracy, (2) political parties, and (3) mass media.

- **Cultural and Religious Frames**

The last frame used in the news headline is related to cultural and religious frames. This type of headline of COVID-19 news in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper can be found in approximately 2.18% of the total data on COVID-19 news during January-March 2021. Several titles and headlines were found, including Pope Francis Criticizes People Vacation to Avoid Lockdown; Vaccination in Islamic Sharia; *MUI* Calls for *Istigosah* so that the COVID-19 Pandemic Ends Soon, Minister of Religion and Interfaith Leaders Pray for a COVID-19 Free Indonesia; and *Kiai, Santri, and Ulama* in West Java were vaccinated in March. The cultural and religious frame comes with the projection of certain terms that lead to religion and culture, namely Pope, Islamic law, *istigosah*, *kiai*, *santri*, and *ulama*. The content of the news with cultural and religious frames in the title indicates that there is support and examples from the religion or belief of each Indonesian community in handling COVID-19. For example, this includes the title frame of the “Minister of Religion and Interfaith Figures Praying for a COVID-19 Free Indonesia, which shows that there is unity from interfaith leaders with this hope that later becomes an example for the Indonesian people to remain united in overcoming COVID-19 without discrimination, ethnicity, race, and religion.

Cultural and religious frames during the COVID-19 pandemic in the news headlines in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper can also be seen as: (145) Inspired by *KH* Said, the Covid Survivor Community Launched (date 01-2021); (146) Pope Francis Criticizes Holiday People to Avoid Lockdown (date 01-2021); (147) The Halalness of the COVID-19 Vaccine, Erick Thohir Has Met *MUI* (date 01-2021); (148) Lebak Charismatic Scholars Support COVID-19 Vaccine (date 01-2021); (149) *PBNU*: Vaccination is part of a religious order (date 01-2021); (150) Efforts by Muslim Countries to Ensure Halalness of the COVID-19 Vaccine (date 01-2021); (151) Vaccination in Islamic Sharia (date 01-2021); (152) Islamic Boarding Schools Still Turn on Alarms to Face the COVID-19 Outbreak (date 01-2021); (153) Law on Cremation of Muslim Body for COVID-19 Patients (date 01-2021); (154) *Kiai, Santri, and Ulama* in West Java Vaccinated in March (date 02-2021); (155) Covid Prevention Measures at the Prophet's Mosque to be Improved (date 02-2021); (156) Hundreds of COVID-19 Positive Students, Islamic Boarding Schools Quarantined (date 02-2021); (157) Congregations of the Recitation in Kulon Progo Positive for Covid So 57 People (date 02-2021); (158) The emergence of Islamic boarding school clusters in Tasikmalaya is difficult to prevent (date 03-2021); (159) Minister of Religion and Interfaith Leaders Pray for Indonesia free from COVID-19 (date 03-2021); (160) Vice President: Spiritual Effort Needs to Face the COVID-19 Pandemic (date 03-2021).

## Discussion

The public health framing had the highest frequency during this period, reaching 79.41%, followed by the policy framing at 13.65%. Since COVID-19 is a health issue, it is common for public health to become the highest framing in online media. However, health framing in COVID-19 news titles in *Republika.co.id* newspapers can affect public fear or concern. This is especially true for the public with low levels of media literacy. Narratives of fear and worry have two effects. On one hand it can increase community readiness (Wu, Wu, Liu, & Yang, 2020). By reading news headlines that sound fearful, people can prepare what actions will be taken, and evaluate what they have not prepared to deal with and overcome the COVID-19 outbreak. However, the narrative of fearful news headlines will only produce other fears. In this context, what is known as information disorder occurs because of errors in interpreting messages and information, resulting in public's incorrect responses as well as disingenuous understanding. Newspaper headlines that emphasize the narrative of fear and worry can impact information disorders. The headline of COVID-19 news produced by the *Republika.co.id* newspaper in Indonesia will be reproduced and amplified in other mass media. Moreover, Indonesians are less careful in verifying the information they receive. This is in accordance with the opinion of Oliver, Dillard, Bae, and Tamul (2012) that the narrative in news can have a major impact on the system of cognition, emotion, and public empathy towards a phenomenon.

Moreover, this study showed that the media has also used a policy framing. It can be determined that the media has practiced optimistic journalism (Sukmono & Junaedi, 2018). During the COVID-19 pandemic, public anxiety increased. High anxiety levels were associated with increased anxiety. The COVID-19 pandemic which has been designated as a national disaster, requires government policy frames in the titles of the COVID-19 news in *Republika.co.id* newspapers that raise hope and provide solutions for the public and

the government. For the government, a policy frame with a narrative of hope and solution can maintain and increase public trust so that the public feels protected and does not hesitate to carry out recommendations and instructions from the government. The government is at the forefront of dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak.

This is in accordance with the findings of [Lundgren and McMakin \(2013\)](#) that a trusted government finds it easier to manage crises and implement crisis management strategies. The government must be able to manage public trust through collaboration with the media so that the frame of news titles can be directed to convince the public to believe in the government's steps in managing the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Additionally, the dominant presence of the public health frame and the use of a policy frame in news headlines indicate the media's influence on public perception of government policies. Positive framing of government policies can foster public trust and compliance, making it easier for policymakers to implement crisis management strategies. Conversely, negative or fear-based framing may lead to skepticism or resistance, potentially complicating policy implementation.

Based on this finding, economic framing had the third highest percentage, reaching 2.57%. The economic policy framing during the COVID-19 pandemic in the news headlines in the *Republika.co.id* newspaper is in accordance with the results of research by [DAD Nasution \(2020\)](#), which stated that along with the development of cases of the COVID-19 pandemic, the market is more volatile in the negative direction. Additionally, the global economic recession, particularly its effects on Indonesia's exports to China, has had a significant impact on the country's economy. This is based on a sensitivity analysis, which showed that the current slowdown in the global economy has greatly impacted Indonesia's economic growth. However, this study did not explore the specific impact of COVID-19 on social economics, as discussed by [Muzuva and Hlungwani \(2022\)](#). Their study specifically explored the impact of COVID-19 on frame entrepreneurs. Furthermore, the inclusion of economic frames in the study alludes to the interconnectedness of economic considerations with pandemic responses. economic impacts can influence policy decisions, such as the allocation of resources, financial support for affected sectors, and strategies to mitigate economic downturns. Policymakers may use economic analysis and data to design policies that address both health and economic challenges.

The fourth most frequently used frame was political framing (2.18%). The narrative of the political framing in the headlines of the *Republika* newspaper showed that there were many challenges and political interests during the COVID-19 pandemic. The presence of interest groups during a pandemic was often used to obtain maximum benefit. There was no doubt that the COVID-19 outbreak was also becoming increasingly politicized, where such actions were not commonly carried out, especially at the expense of the welfare or safety of the people. In the world of politics, an interest group was defined as a group of individuals who hold alliances and aim to influence and convince the political decisions of public officials to act in accordance with the interests of their group members. Interest groups often included issuers, disseminators of ideas, and policymakers. In general, the power possessed by interest groups came from the status of members of the group or their human resources, either in the form of funds or connections. This is in accordance with the opinion of [Almond \(1981\)](#) that there were types of institutional interest groups that were part of several political elites, members of parliament, and various political elites. In addition, the presence of the political frame and the mention of interest groups suggest potential political pressures and competing priorities during the pandemic. Policymakers may face challenges in balancing public health interests with political considerations, especially if certain groups advocated for policies that prioritize their interests over public welfare. Transparent and accountable policy-making is crucial in ensuring that public health remains the top priority.

Finally, the findings showed that cultural and religious frames were also used by the reporter, which reached 2.18%. Based on the data analysis, the headline of the *Republika.co.id* newspaper shows that cultural and religious discourses came to the fore during the COVID-19 outbreak. The current coronavirus outbreak refers to the history of the prophet; whenever there was an epidemic that occurred with almost the same conditions, handling was also isolated. Therefore, to overcome the outbreak, one of them is to implement quarantine or the isolation of victims. Thus, the quarantine method has been applied since the time of Prophet Muhammad to prevent outbreaks of infectious diseases from spreading to other areas. The Apostle built a wall around the plague area to ensure that order was carried out. The Prophet also warned his people not to approach an area affected by the plague. On the other hand, if they are affected by the plague, they are prohibited from going out. During isolation, qualified medical personnel who are able to provide appropriate treatment to patients are provided. Isolation officers are given special security; therefore, they are not infected. The central government continues to provide food supplies to isolated communities ([Mukharom & Havis, 2020](#)). Also, the study's mention of cultural and religious frames subtly indicates the importance of considering cultural sensitivity in policy implementation. Policymakers must be aware of cultural practices and beliefs that could influence people's adherence to health guidelines or vaccination strategies. Taking cultural and religious perspectives into account can enhance the effectiveness and acceptance of policies among diverse communities.

## Conclusion

The classification of the COVID-19 infodemic framing categories in the headlines of newspapers in Indonesia is as follows: (1) public health frames as the highest percentage (79.41% among 1,831 news headlines during the period); (2) policy frames for about 13.65%; (3) economic frames for 2.57%; (4) political frames for 2.18%; and (5) cultural and religious frames for 2.18%. The framing of news headlines showed that the health issue was news framing within the period of concern. Moreover, news framing can also influence the public, which builds the perception of COVID-19 disease and encourage healthy living behaviors. In May 2020, World Health Organization passed a resolution emphasizing upon managing the infodemic or media framing to control the COVID-19 pandemic. It called upon member states to provide reliable COVID-19 content in the media, and take stern measures against misinformation and disinformation. If required, the digital technologies could be monitored, to prevent harmful cyber activities manipulating the health data.

The research had several limitations to consider. It focused solely on one online newspaper, *Republika.co.id*, which might not fully represent all media outlets in Indonesia. The study's timeframe (January to March 2021) may not capture evolving framing strategies beyond that period. The frame-type analysis approach used may have limitations in comprehensively capturing news reporting nuances. Audience perception and cultural contexts were not extensively explored. To improve future studies, a broader and diverse media sample, extended timeframe, mixed-method approaches, and audience feedback should be considered for a more comprehensive understanding of media framing's impact on public understanding and policy responses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the subjectivity involved in the discourse analysis process may influence the categorization of frames. These limitations should be considered when interpreting the results and future research could benefit from examining a broader range of media sources and using multiple methods of data analysis to strengthen the validity and comprehensiveness of the findings.

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