

Informed Amidst Isolation: Examining the Lampung Province People 's Information and Media Literacy During the Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstrak

The Covid-19 pandemic which has lasted more than 3 years has positioned Covid-19 information on the media agenda. Apart from that, this pandemic has also changed the social order which has resulted in increased ownership, media access and communication effects. In the process, the communication effect is related to the level of media literacy regarding Covid-19 information which is on the media agenda. The formulation of the problem in this research is how high the level of media and information literacy for Covid-19 is in Lampung province. This research is examined through agenda setting theory, social category theory and stages of media literacy. The research method used is quantitative descriptive. The sampling technique used in this research is cluster sampling. Based on Yamane's formula, a sample of 100 people was determined. By using cluster sampling, the respondents for this study were represented by 20 respondents each from 5 districts in Lampung Province. The research results show that the level of media and information literacy for Covid-19 is 52.45% or is in the medium category. The results are understandable as the extensive reporting on COVID-19 over three years has enhanced public information literacy, encompassing various aspects from information needs to sharing capabilities. However, disparities in information reception exist due to factors like the shift from personal to media interactions because of mobility restrictions, the public's unpreparedness for the pandemic's impacts which reprioritized media access needs, and demographic factors like education and economic levels influencing information acceptance.

Kata Kunci: Covid-19; Informed Amidst; Media Literacy

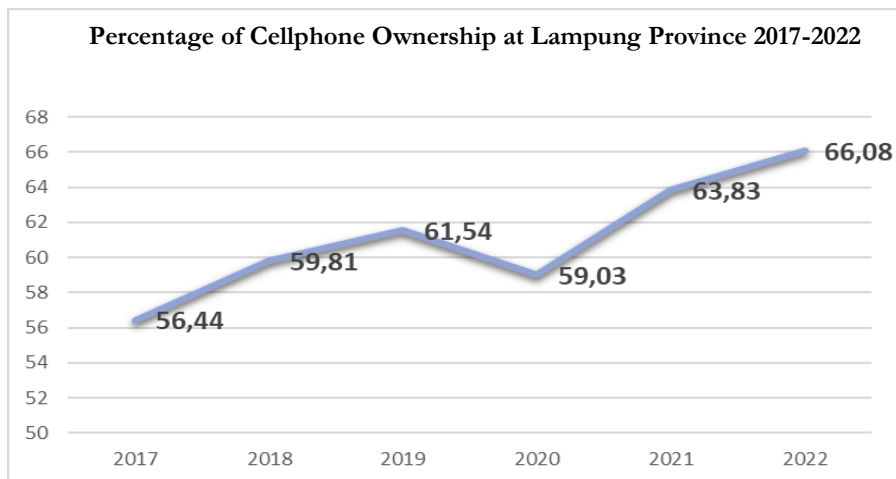
A. Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed a worldwide health crisis of unprecedented proportions, thereby exerting substantial influence on healthcare systems, economies, and daily routines (Hamrouni et al., 2022; Katz et al., 2023; Shanahan et al., 2022; Sturmberg et al., 2022) . Not only did hospitals and clinics

face immense pressure with rising patient numbers, but global markets also witnessed volatile fluctuations, impacting businesses big and small. Simultaneously, individuals across the globe found themselves adjusting to new ways of living, with lockdowns and quarantines (Atalan, 2020; Onyeaka et al., 2021), and the fear of the virus (Bhat et al., 2020) altering the essence of normalcy especially during the implementation of social restriction policy. The enforcement of the social restriction policy has led to substantial alterations in individuals' daily routines (Karasmanaki & Tsantopoulos, 2021). The obstruction of face-to-face communication, which serves as the fundamental means of social interaction, prompts individuals to seek safer and more viable alternatives. The necessity to maintain social distance, combined with the human instinct to stay connected, drove the world towards innovative solutions. This occurrence has prompted a significant transformation towards the realm of digital technology, wherein online platforms are utilized for exchanges, gatherings, and transactions (Dannenberg et al., 2020; Lemay et al., 2021). One of the most notable effects is the significant increase in demand for informational media. There is burgeoning interest among individuals to allocate a greater portion of their resources towards the acquisition of digital devices (Ganichev & Koshovets, 2021; A. Perdana & Mokhtar, 2022; Usgaonkar et al., 2021), including but not limited to smartphones, computers, tablets, and similar items. These devices offer a novel platform for individuals to sustain their interpersonal engagements, professional endeavours, educational pursuits, and information acquisition. Electronics retail establishments recorded a rise in sales, while communication applications like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and WhatsApp observed noteworthy surges in utilization. As these trends took hold globally, specific nations showcased particularly notable shifts in their digital landscapes. Indonesia, for example, emerged as a fascinating case study, reflecting the broader global transition but also presenting unique national patterns in digital consumption and connectivity.

Based on the Indonesian Telecommunication Statistics for the year 2022 provided by the BPS, it can be observed that 66.48 percent of the nation's populace had availed internet access (Virindra & Khaltar, 2022). In comparison, the preceding year of 2021 witnessed a lower percentage at 62.10% (Gati, 2023). The considerable level of internet usage prevailing in contemporary society can be interpreted as a manifestation of an environment characterized by an inclination towards information transparency and receptiveness towards technological advancements and the transition into an information-centric society. The substantial quantity of internet users in Indonesia is intricately linked to the swift progression of cellular telephony. By 2022, it is anticipated that approximately 67.88 percent of the Indonesian population will possess a mobile communication device. The present data exhibits a notable surge when contrasted with the preceding year's records, specifically exceeding a proportion of 65.87 percent observed in 2021 (Statistik, 2022).

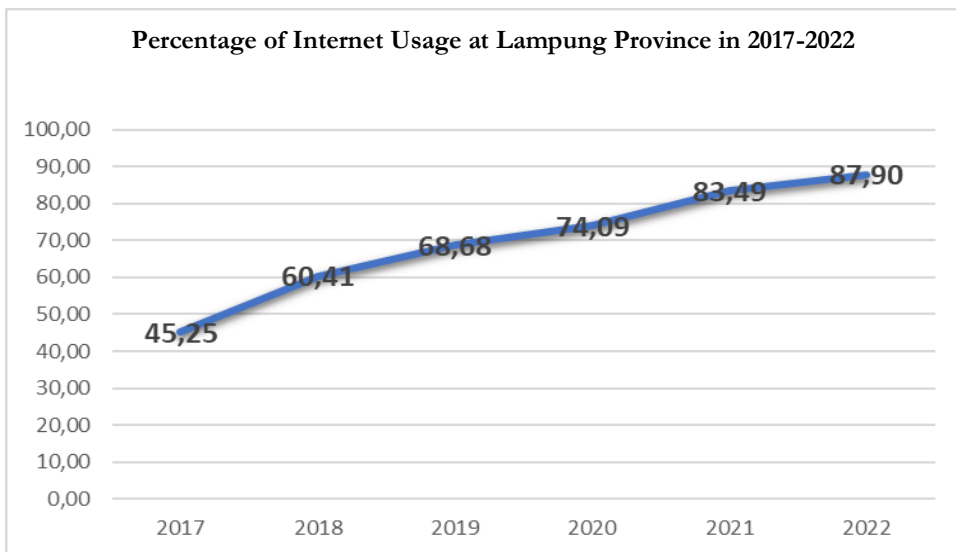
During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lampung region, like numerous other areas, experienced a notable and transformative increase in the utilization of digital technologies (Ida & Refly, 2021; Lestari et al., 2021). The province, which has traditionally relied on traditional methods of communication and engagement, has recently witnessed a significant increase in the ownership of mobile phones. There existed a palpable societal drive for connectivity among the residents, spanning from the lively streets of Bandar Lampung to the serene vistas of rural regions. Local electronics retailers, including those situated in more rural areas, experienced an unprecedented surge in the demand for smartphones. A considerable percentage of households were proactively procuring these gadgets, not solely for communication purposes, but as indispensable resources for educational (Y. Perdana et al., 2020; Septama et al., 2021), professional (Cartatika & Alam, 2023; Zakaria et al., 2022), and vital health-related purposes (Fakih et al., 2022; Putri & Sartika, 2021). The ownership of cell phones in Lampung can be precisely described as follow:



source: <https://www.bps.go.id/indicator/2/395/1/persentase-penduduk-yang-memiliki-menguasai-telepon-seluler-menurut-provinsi-dan-klasifikasi-daerah.html>

Concomitant with the exponential increase in mobile device ownership, a pronounced escalation in internet usage pervaded the entire province. During the pandemic, internet cafes have evolved from mere destinations for casual browsing and gaming to become significant establishments facilitating access to information, assisting individuals in navigating the intricacies of the digital era (Farooq et al., 2020). Despite the limited presence of broadband infrastructure in certain regions, individuals have employed mobile data plans to remain well-informed and sustain interpersonal connections. In the province, online platforms, and applications, which were previously considered to be privileged urban amenities, emerged as vital resources, serving as conduits during periods of societal seclusion. The impact of the pandemic on Lampung's societal integration into digital realms became apparent,

underscoring the tenacity and adaptability of its residents. The progressive escalation in the availability of internet connectivity in the province of Lampung can be comprehensively elucidated as follows:



(source: <https://www.bps.go.id/indikator/2/398/1/persentase-rumah-tangga-yang-pernah-mengakses-internet-dalam-3-bulan-terakhir-menurut-provinsi-dan-klasifikasi-daerah.html>)

In the past five years, there has been a notable rise in internet usage data in the region of Lampung. The advent of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent implementation of social restrictions have significantly contributed to the escalation of internet utilization, particularly within the domains of education, commerce, public services, and various other sectors. The emergence of Covid-19 as a novel pathogen has effectively altered societal communication behaviours, while the implementation of social restrictions has likewise contributed to the escalated utilization and accessibility of the internet. Although the sea of information may appear vast, navigating it with discernment is crucial. Despite the vast amount of information available, its quality remains inconsistent, emphasizing the need to gauge individuals' capacity to distinguish between genuine and deceptive content. This is crucial in the context of global events like the Covid-19 pandemic, where misinformation can be highly consequential. To address the urgent need, this research explores media and information literacy in Lampung province, focusing on Covid-19. The study aims to assess the proficiency of media and information literacy pertaining to Covid-19 within Lampung province. In other words, this research is to ascertain and assess the degree of media and information literacy regarding Covid-19 within the Lampung province.

B. Theoretical Background

The media agenda pertains to the prioritization of media messages that are deemed essential for society to receive. This agenda-setting concept was proposed by the agenda-setting theory. Initially developed by Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw in 1972, the theory elucidates the interplay between the prominence bestowed upon specific issues by the mass media and the magnitude of significance these issues hold for media consumers (Littlejohn & Foss, 2009). Shaw, McCombs, and their colleagues claim that media depictions can affect how people think about the news, help organize the world of experience, and are stunningly successful in telling us what to think about. In other words, agenda setting establishes salient issues or images in the minds of the public (Mesch & Schwirian, 2023). Agenda setting occurs because the media must be selective in reporting the news. This means news outlets make choices about what to report and how to report it. In other words, what the public knows about the situation at any given time is largely a product of media gatekeeping (Wilfred et al., 2021).

The phenomenon of agenda setting appears to be driven by a mechanism known as priming. In the context of hydraulics, the act of priming a pump involves saturating the conduit with water, which ensures prompt flow of water upon activating the pump (Buturoiu et al., 2023). The media, by means of consistent exposure, amplify matters, thereby influencing the cognitive processes of individuals. Likewise, there are two levels of agenda setting. The first establishes the general issues that are important, and the second determines the parts or aspects of those issues that are viewed as important. Second-level agenda setting frames the issues that constitute the public and media agendas. For instance, the mass media consistently emphasizes the potency and significance of Covid-19 as a perilous pathogen (Abdullah et al., 2020), thus effectively establishing it as a prominent matter, using the first level of agenda setting. Moreover, the media further endeavours to elucidate the interconnectedness between the progression of the viral outbreak and its far-reaching consequences on various facets, including the economy. The second level of agenda setting refers to the ability of the media to shape the public's perception of the importance and salience of specific issues. This process involves not only selecting which issues to cover, but also determining the extent of coverage and prominence of those issues. Through their strategic decision-making, media outlets influence the amount of attention and discussion devoted to certain topics, thereby framing public discourse, and shaping the collective understanding of what is considered significant in society. This level of agenda setting demonstrates the significant power that media possess in setting the agenda and influencing public opinion.

Besides that, the agenda-setting function is a three-part process (Littlejohn & Foss, 2009). First, the priority of issues to be discussed in the media, or media agenda, must be set. Second, the media agenda in some way influences or interacts

with what the public thinks, creating the public agenda. Finally, the public agenda affects or interacts in some way with what policy makers consider important, called the policy agenda. In the theory's simplest and most direct version, then, the media agenda affects the public agenda, and the public agenda influences the policy agenda. Although several studies show that the media can be powerful in influencing the public agenda, it is still unclear whether the public agenda also affects the media agenda. The relationship may be one of mutual rather than linear causation. Further, it appears that actual events have some impact on both the media agenda and the public agenda. The prevailing opinion among media researchers seems to be that the media can but does not always have a powerful effect on the public agenda. The power of media depends on such factors as media credibility on issues at times, the extent of conflicting evidence as perceived by individual members of the public, the extent to which individuals share media values at times, and the public's need for guidance. Media most often will be powerful when media credibility is high, conflicting evidence is low, individuals share media values, and the audience has a high need for guidance. Furthermore, agenda setting also operates in three domains, (Wu, 2021) namely (1) The media agenda itself must be formatted. This process will raise the problem of how the media agenda occurred in the first place. This is related to how Covid-19 news is disseminated in the media; (2) The media agenda influences or interacts with the public agenda or the importance of certain issues for the public, so that this agenda will raise questions about how strongly the media is able to influence the public agenda and how the public does it. This is related to how the Covid-19 news has become the public agenda/becomes an intense discussion in society, as well as how society responds to this news; (3) The public agenda influences or interacts with the policy agenda. This is related to how various government and media policies emerge because of existing agenda settings.

Apart from the media aspect, the acceptance of media messages by society is also influenced by social categories. According to De Fleur (1989, as cited in Evanita, 2014)), social category theory argues that social categories in society are assumed to cause differences in determining a person's selectivity towards the content of the medium, meaning that people who are in a social category will tend to have similarities in choosing messages, responding to and responding to them. These social categories can be based on demographic aspects such as age, education level, income level, type of work, etc. In the media access process, this social category is related to the level of message reception. This is related to media literacy, which is a person's ability to access, analyse, evaluate, and re-communicate messages obtained from mass media to other people (Aduloju, 2020). Thus, media literacy is also related to how a person controls the media so that the meaning of the messages obtained will be useful and these useful messages will be conveyed to other people. The more literate a person is, the more he will be able to differentiate between actual reality and reality formed/constructed by the media (Austin et al., 2021; Jormand et al., 2021; Shevchenko et al., 2021). While Potter (2011, as cited in Kazakov, 2022) states

that there are seven skills related to media literacy, namely: analysis, evaluation, grouping, induction, deduction, synthesis, and abstracting skills.

1. Analytical skills require us to decompose the messages we receive into meaningful elements.
2. Evaluation is assessing the meaning of these elements.
3. Grouping is determining elements that are similar and elements that are different to be grouped into different categories.
4. Induction is drawing conclusions from the grouping above and then generalizing the patterns of these elements into a larger message.
5. Deduction uses general principles to explain something specific.
6. Synthesis is collecting these elements into a new structure.
7. Abstracting is creating a short, clear, and accurate description to describe the essence of the message more concisely than the original message.

Based on the discussion, it becomes evident that the dissemination of media messages and their societal reception are deeply intertwined within the framework of social categorization. These categories, which have their foundations firmly in demographic factors, exert significant influence on our responsiveness and interpretation of media material (Kolkman, 2022; Балакина, 2023). Hence, media literacy is an imperative resource that equips individuals with the ability to navigate the expansive media landscape adeptly, demonstrating discernment in their engagement with various media platforms. In addition to mere passivity in consuming media, proficiency in literacy equips individuals with the ability to analyse, assess, and reconstruct various media messages, fostering a more profound comprehension and an active involvement with the material. According to Potter's seven proficiencies, genuine media literacy surpasses simple comprehension and requires active engagement in deconstructing and reconstructing messages to achieve clarity and authentic understanding. Given the current abundance of information and the tendency for it to be misleading, it becomes essential to cultivate these skills. Ensuring the possession of these competencies by society not only facilitates the development of an enlightened citizenry (Bajwa et al., 2022), but also safeguards the veracity of information, thereby reinforcing the fundamental principles of a well-informed and critical society.

C. Research Methodology

The research employs a quantitative descriptive methodology as its primary investigative approach. This approach is distinguished by its purpose of systematically and objectively collecting empirical data, followed by the application of statistical analysis to discern and explain the identified patterns, associations, and trends. In 2022, the Lampung Province Central Statistics Agency (BPS) recorded that the population of Lampung will reach 9,176,546 people (BPS Provinsi Lampung, 2022). This figure reflects the demographic growth and dynamics

occurring in the province. In the context of this research, with a population of 9,176,546 people, the researcher decided to use the Yamane formula to determine the required sample size. Yamane's formula is often used in social research to obtain sample size estimates from a large population with a certain degree of error. In this case, by setting the error rate (d) at 0.1 or 10%, through Yamane formula calculations, the required sample size (n) is obtained as 100 respondents. This means, from the total population of Lampung, this research will take 100 individuals as representatives of that population to obtain a clearer picture of the phenomenon being studied.

To obtain adequate representation of the Lampung population, the sampling technique applied was cluster random sampling. This approach was chosen considering that the province consists of several districts and cities, each of which has different demographic and social characteristics. By randomly selecting five urban districts, this study attempts to capture the diversity within the population in the hope that the results will be more generalizable. Each selected district or city will be represented by 20 randomly selected respondents. This ensures that each district or city has an equal contribution to the overall data. The instrument used to collect data is a Likert scale. This scale is designed to measure respondents' attitudes, perceptions and opinions towards media and information literacy related to Covid-19. The Likert scale provides a series of statements in which respondents are asked to express their agreement or disagreement, usually on a five- or seven-point scale. After the data is collected, the analysis technique used is to calculate the average of respondents' answers. Then, the average is converted into a percentage to provide a clearer picture of the respondent's level of agreement or disagreement with each statement on the Likert scale. With this approach, researchers can assess how strong the media and information literacy of Lampung people is in the context of Covid-19.

D. Research Results

This research was carried out in Lampung Province, specifically in five districts according to the direction of the research method. Of the 13 regencies in Lampung Province, 5 regencies were selected as samples, namely Central Lampung Regency, Pesawaran Regency, East Lampung Regency, Bandar Lampung City, and South Lampung Regency. This study has effectively encompassed diverse segments of the Lampung society spanning across different age groups, encompassing both teenagers and adults, from a demographic standpoint such as age, ethnicity, type of work, marital status, and educational background. The survey participants demonstrated considerable diversity in the occupational profiles they held, encompassing roles such as students, civil servants/employees, and traders/private individuals. The provided data showcases the extensive range of professions present within Lampung society. Furthermore, a significant portion of the participants who are unmarried and enrolled as students indicates that the studied sample is primarily composed of individuals from the younger demographic.

In the study, it is also evident that a significant proportion of the respondents represent the student demographic, thereby underscoring the profound emphasis placed on education by the contemporary youth cohort in Lampung. Nevertheless, a minority of respondents exhibited limited educational attainment, having completed only middle school or elementary school, while some indicated a complete lack of formal education. It is imperative to acknowledge that despite the growing accessibility to information and technology, certain segments of society necessitate heightened focus regarding education and information literacy. Those results can be seen from the following table:

Table 1. The Features of Sample Population Based on Demographic Indicators.

Features	n	%
Age, mean (SD) years	21-30	48
Ethnicity		
Lampungnese	46	46
Javanese	25	25
Palembangnese	3	3
Sundanese	4	4
Minangnese	2	2
Bataknese	2	2
Other	18	18
Work Type		
Other	26	26
House wife	14	14
Private Owner	13	13
Trader	10	10
Private Worker	10	10
Civilian Servant	26	26
Student		
Marital Status		
Married	47	47
Single	52	52
Widower	1	1
Educational Background		
Never	1	1
Elementary School	5	5
Juniro High School	4	4
Senior High School	43	43
Undergraduate	47	47

The research findings also demonstrate a significant prevalence of technology and social media platform usage among the participants in Lampung. Indeed, all participants possess communication devices, namely mobile phones, which enable them to readily access the internet. WhatsApp (97%) emerged as the

prevailing platform employed by the respondents, closely trailed by Facebook (79%) and Instagram (71%). The result suggests that contemporary communication patterns lean towards the utilization of instant messaging applications and social media platforms. Surprisingly, notwithstanding the considerable access to technology, the respondents' average income tends to be situated in the lower echelons, amounting to less than 5 million per month. This finding demonstrates that despite the increasing affordability of technology, there may not be a commensurate rise in individuals' income levels.

The research results also show that the level of information literacy regarding Covid-19 among respondents is at an average score of 2.62, which is equivalent to 52.45%. The findings of the research indicate that the mean score pertaining to the respondents' proficiency in information literacy regarding Covid-19 is 2.62 out of 5. This score, situated marginally above the median point of the scale, affords valuable insights into the participants' comprehension level pertaining to the pandemic. When considering this matter within the wider scope of information literacy, which encompasses the competencies of recognizing, comprehending, assessing, and employing information efficiently, the score indicates a moderate level of knowledge and proficiencies pertaining to Covid-19 information.

Because the respondents' position is situated above the midpoint, it is reasonable to surmise that they possess a fundamental grasp of the subject matter. In other words, people in Lampung Province possess a reasonable level of knowledge and awareness pertaining to Covid-19. Nevertheless, the obtained score does not approach the upper limit, indicating substantial potential for enhancement. This observation points towards possible deficiencies in cognition, comprehension, or the aptitude to differentiate and apply information pertaining to the virus. In the context of a global scenario, wherein the precise understanding of Covid-19 is crucial for an efficient individual and communal reaction, this moderate score highlights the persistent requirement for stronger educational interventions and enhanced dissemination of information.

Thus, this literacy level is influenced by several factors as follows. First, the research shows that many people want to know about Covid-19. On average, about 75.60% of the people surveyed said they need information about it. Looking at the details, most people are worried about understanding the virus and how it spreads. This is important to 78.40% of the people surveyed. This information also shows that people are worried about the different vaccines and how well they work, with 73.20% being concerned about this. They also want to know how many people have been affected by the virus, with 72.40% wanting regular updates on this. These numbers show that the people being studied had different types of questions about the virus. Some were more general, wanting to know about the virus overall. Others had more specific questions about how the virus is affecting society. Adding to the previously mentioned need for information is the emphasis on specific areas of

knowledge. A large majority of participants, 74.30%, think that specific categories of Covid-19 information are very important. At the top of the list is the search for ways to prevent something bad from happening. This is very important to 81% of the people surveyed. This means that the community wants to act and focus on practical ways to protect themselves. Other things like figuring out how the virus changes, keeping track of the number of patients, and knowing the differences between different vaccines were also considered important, with around 70% of people agreeing. This data shows that the community wants to be well-informed and have a good understanding of the pandemic by considering many different aspects of it.

Second, another factor that also influence the community literacy level is the community competency regarding Covid-19 information search tools. The community's ability or inability to use these tools well can either help or hurt their overall understanding of Covid-19. Computers and cell phones are the most common and important tools mentioned. A big majority of 75.20% of the community prefer using cell phones as their main source for information. On the other hand, only 45.60% of people depend on computers. This inequality shows a clear pattern: many people prefer and can easily use cell phones to get quick updates or information. But there is a big problem that stands out, as shown by the unexpectedly low 18.60% which represents how easy it is to access something. This percentage means that many people in the community have the necessary tools, but they have trouble finding what they need from the huge amount of information online. This is made even more obvious by the fact that only 10.20% of people use keywords correctly when searching for information online. Even more worrying is that only 8.60% of people know how to do advanced searches, like using quotation marks to search for exact phrases, using asterisks for wildcard searching, or using specialized searches for media like photos or videos. This information highlights an urgent necessity: although having the appropriate tools is a beginning, it is essential for the community to develop better skills in searching online to analyse, understand, and make use of the vast amount of information on the internet.

The third important factor that influences how much a community knows about Covid-19 is their knowledge and use of different sources of information. This research found that social media platforms and messaging apps are popular ways for people to get information. For example, most people in the community use WhatsApp Groups to get information. About 70,80% of the community uses them. After that, it is Instagram with 54,60% and Facebook with 49,60% However, Twitter is not as popular for getting updates on the pandemic, with only 34.80% of people using it. At the same time, a small 18.80% of people use the internet to get the information they need. More specifically, 19,00% of people pay attention to national online news, which is slightly more than the 17,00% who pay attention to local online news. However, when it comes to more specific types of content, the numbers decrease. Only 15,60% of people search for written documents, 18,40%

search for pictures or visual information, and only 14,00% watch videos. This distribution shows that there are many ways to get information and that people in the community have different levels of trust and dependence on each of these ways.

Fourth, the level of community's knowledge regarding Covid-19 manifests through their cognitive grasp and trust in the pertinent information, thus underscoring its significance. The findings of the study revealed that a significant majority, specifically 71% of individuals, place their trust and faith in the information they obtain in relation to Covid-19. This numerical representation signifies that a significant proportion of individuals possess confidence in and concur with the information they encounter. Nevertheless, there exists a subgroup of individuals who manifest uncertainty or prudence. This necessitates ensuring the accuracy and dependability of the information imparted to the public. The percentage of respondents' answers based on message references, message access behaviour, level of trust in messages along with implementation behaviour and information sharing can be stated in the following table:

Table 2. Respondents' Answers on Five Indicators of Media & Information Usage

Origin of the Message from the Media	Message Reference	Access messages	Level of confidence	Application of information	Average
a. radio	26,80	28,80	31,00	28,20	28,70
b. television.	68,40	67,80	68,00	66,00	67,55
c. newspapers/ magazines.	37,00	33,00	36,20	35,40	35,40
d. Brochures/ posters/ similar	34,60	31,60	33,80	33,20	33,30
e. internet/online media	74,00	72,80	70,20	71,80	72,20
Sub total					47,43

The table data above is also supported by other respondents' abilities in processing information. The research reveals that the respondents possess diverse and resilient capacities with regards to the comprehension and handling of Covid-19 information in various domains. The research determined that a significant proportion (68. 80%) of survey participants exhibit competence in recalling, retaining, and/or transcribing information pertaining to the virus, thereby indicating a robust capacity for information documentation. Furthermore, the research yielded a considerable majority, amounting to 71. 80%, demonstrate proficiency in harnessing the stored and recorded information to effectively navigate preventive strategies and detect instances of Covid-19. This finding symbolizes a noteworthy capacity to efficiently process and utilize vital information.

Additionally, the research also revealed that a significant majority of participants, specifically 65.00%, possess the ability to effectively articulate the different classifications of the Covid-19 virus and its subsequent mutations. This outcome serves as a testament to their level of comprehension and proficiency in interpersonal communication. Not only that, it should be highlighted that 62.80% of the participants exhibited a proactive approach by engaging in discussions regarding Covid-19 on a regular basis with friends, family, and community leaders. This behavior exemplifies an enthusiastic involvement in disseminating crucial information and increasing public consciousness. The research conducted on discerning veracity in information regarding the virus revealed that respondents exhibited a notable proficiency in various domains. These domains encompassed the identification of different strains and mutations of Covid-19 (67.60%), awareness of symptoms (70.40%), comprehension of mutation variants (64.20%), implementation of preventive measures against Covid-19 (71.00%), and adherence to health protocols (71.60%). The aforementioned findings imply that a significant majority demonstrates a substantial capacity for discrimination and judgment with respect to Covid-19-related information.

Nevertheless, the research substantiates that the propensity to redistribute Covid-19 information is comparatively subdued, with a comprehensive mean of 54.56%. The percentage of individuals willing to share information is notably elevated when pertaining to family members (76.00%); however, it diminishes when disclosing such information to friends and colleagues (60.40%), neighbors (46.20%), community figures (45.80%), and medical personnel (45.40%). This finding suggests that the diffusion of information is robust among close-knit social circles but diminishes considerably beyond these networks.

E. Discussion

The Covid-19 pandemic has emerged as a worldwide concern with the potential to significantly impact individuals' livelihoods. The viral outbreak that emerged towards the conclusion of 2019 and persisted until its resolution, as officially declared by President Jokowi through Presidential Decree Number 17 of 2023, pertains to the cessation of the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia. Over the span of over three years, the progression of Covid-19 has significantly influenced the focus and coverage of the mass media. Numerous discourses pertaining to Covid-19 encompass the historical background of the virus, its evolutionary trajectory and mutations, the escalating toll of affected individuals, preventive measures, and governmental strategies implemented to combat the virus, especially those concerning vaccine administration. In contrast, the degree of public acquiescence towards media representations and agendas regarding Covid-19 displays notable variation. The extent to which Covid-19 messages generate public interest exhibits significant fluctuations, contingent upon demographic factors, media ownership, and media access and agenda. In accordance with logical

reasoning, it can be inferred that messages or news items that are given prominence on media platforms will be disseminated more extensively, thereby prioritizing a heightened frequency of message or news exposure. This is particularly noticeable when the news pertains to local occurrences within a community. The proliferation of media agenda setting, and the heightened intensity of messages have the potential to establish a strong connection between the public and the substantive content of news reports.

The impact of Covid-19 news extends beyond merely affecting individuals' cognitive, affective, and behavioural dimensions; it also significantly contributes to the enhancement of people's literacy in relation to news consumption through a sequence of processes aimed at generating communication effects (Figu, 2020; Qekaj-Thaqi & Thaqi, 2021). The protracted reporting period on the Covid-19 pandemic spanning over a three-year period has greatly facilitated the development of information literacy. This encompasses several key facets, namely (1) the fulfillment of information requirements, (2) proficiency in conducting comprehensive searches across multiple news formats, online media platforms, and informational genres, (3) the reception of information at different levels, encompassing factors such as references to the message, behavioural patterns of accessing the message, and the extent of trust placed in the message, (4) the capability to retain and store information, (5) the ability to make comparisons, and (6) the aptitude to both employ and disseminate acquired information.

In contrast, the disparity in the dissemination of messages, the ability to access them, and their subsequent reception is subject to the sway of various factors. These factors include alterations observed in media access patterns (Su et al., 2022). Communities characterized by limited access in the past were compelled to endure such circumstances due to confinement within their spatial boundaries. This phenomenon engenders challenges pertaining to the facilitation of communication and reception of messages, as individuals transition from predominantly engaging in interpersonal interactions to utilizing online platforms and media. Additionally, individuals' lack of readiness to embrace the ramifications of the pandemic compels them to swiftly adjust their behaviours and mindset. During periods of social restrictions, it is imperative for society to furnish individuals with communication devices that cater to diverse necessities in not just the realm of education, but in other domains of life as well. This condition promptly reorients the ranking of media access requirements from secondary or tertiary to primary necessities. Demographic factors, including levels of education and economic status, exert a significant influence on the degree of information acceptance, thereby affecting public literacy pertaining to Covid-19 information.

F. Conclusion

The Covid-19 pandemic has exerted a substantial influence on multiple facets of life in the Lampung Province society, encompassing the dissemination and reception of information pertaining to this viral outbreak. The mean level of Covid-19 information literacy among individuals in the Lampung community reached an estimated value of 52.45%. The presented data indicates that the general populace possesses a substantial level of awareness regarding Covid-19; nevertheless, there remains scope for further enhancement. The significant demand for information pertaining to Covid-19 and the progression of the virus exemplifies the public's conscientiousness regarding the imperative nature of upholding individual health and safety. Nevertheless, the restricted capacity of the general populace to efficiently retrieve information, exemplified by the suboptimal utilization of keywords during online searches, delineates evident barriers impeding the attainment of an enhanced degree of information literacy.

The demand for precise information among the Lampung community can be observed through their emphasis on accessing knowledge pertaining to preventive measures, viral mutations, and vaccine variations. Considering numerous sources of information accessible to the public, the predominant reliance on the WhatsApp Group signifies the significant role interpersonal communication plays within Lampung society. One of the noteworthy concerns pertains to the community's capacity for information processing. A significant proportion of individuals possess the capacity to recall, retain, and potentially distribute knowledge among their peers. However, the task of discerning between accurate and inaccurate information continues to pose difficulties, highlighting the significance of information literacy within society.

All in all, it is evident that the residents of Lampung exhibit a heightened level of consciousness and regard regarding the dissemination and acquisition of information pertaining to the Covid-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, there exists a requisite to enhance information literacy to enable individuals to render more discerning judgments, while concurrently ensuring the information they access possesses a higher degree of precision. The prioritization of information literacy education and training is crucial, particularly considering the significance of information in effectively addressing the ongoing pandemic.

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