

# National Economic and Health Recovery in the Disruptive Pandemic: A Proposal for Indonesia

## *Peer-reviews*

ACADEMIA | Letters

### *National Economic and Health Recovery in the Disruptive Pandemic: A Proposal for Indonesia*

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#### Abstract

The government's rhetoric of Indonesian resurgence is one of economic and health recovery from the current disruptive pandemic. However, this rhetoric has not been matched in reality, as the recovery focus and fulfillment have been heavily slanted towards the economic sphere. There is a need for a policy which could sustainably alleviate both economic and health sufferings among the Indonesian population. We propose for this policy to be Job Guarantee (JG), in which the government provides a job for Indonesians who are able and willing to work, yet unable to find a job in the labor market. This would help solve the major problem of unemployment, especially involuntary ones, which has been exacerbated by the twin supply and demand shock caused by the pandemic. Based on implementation in other countries, a JG policy need not cost very much, especially when compared to its benefits. This article highlights not only JG's economic benefits, but offers a novel understanding into JG's health benefits, especially mentally. An explicit name of National Economic and Health Recovery policy is thus recommended, to reflect better the understanding presented in this article.

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## Acceptances (24)

Note: Accepted reviewer and author comments **will** be published alongside the paper.



Jan Hauke, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

### Review

"The authors recommend improving the proposals of Indonesian policymakers regarding economic and health recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. As they stated the key is to adopt a Job Guarantee policy, which would provide jobs "for Indonesians who are able and willing to work, yet unable to find a job in the labor market". Consequently, it will help to solve many problems related to unemployment. In addition to economic benefits, the authors point to new perspectives on health benefits, in particular mental health. Various countries try to overcome the negative (not only economic) effects caused by the current pandemic using methods adapted to their individual financial capabilities. These issues absorb many researchers, which makes the presented article interesting. "



Dr. Abdullah M. Al-Ansi, Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta

### Review

"I think that this paper introduced an important proposal how to deal with disruptive impact of Pandemic in both economic and health perspectives. Many of people have lost their jobs during the pandemic and they surely suffer financially and psychological. Creating and implementing a national policy to help people and reduce the impact of pandemic is vital. I will recommend this paper for publication and also to be implemented in other countries. "



Shipra Maitra,

### Review

"It is an extremely well written article covering the intricate inter dependant relationship among three components of well being: economic, physical and mental. The authors lucidly describe this disruptive environment created during the pandemic in the context of Indonesia but this can be applicable in other countries as well. It provides a clear idea about the depth of disruption, its expansion and the damage caused in the short run and the long run. Impact of economic policies on health, both physical and mental are generally overlooked. the authors strike a blow to the conventional perception that jobs are the main requirement for overcoming the disruptive pandemic, ignoring the delicate relationship with physical and mental well being. This paper is highly recommended for enriching public deliberation."



Christina Zourna, University of Macedonia

### **Review**

"Overall, it is an interesting paper on an urgent matter concerning health and psychology recovering of the unemployed/ underemployed in Indonesia, severely hit by recession and coronavirus crisis.

The topic is quite important and the suggested proposal theoretically adequately based and argumentatively well supported.

The language is very good and the syllogism easy to follow.

Yes, every government should use spare hands to build public infrastructure, give jobs to the less fortunate and find better ways for choosing these people.

Apart from the financial and psychological issues, I would add that social relations have also been damaged – and the people's and communities' connectivity in societies need to be addressed, too.

I recommend publishing in Academia Letters as this paper proceeds the international dialogue about mental consequences of the current crisis and solutions to deal with them; it is not only a matter of economic recovery – it is also a matter of social and psychological recovery. I would also like to read further research on the topic as well as more dialogue on it in the near future. "



bashir F A R U K Umar,

## Review

"Yes, it proffers alternative solution to the twin problems of poverty and unemployment in Indonesia during and after COVID-19 pandemic using the proposed Job guarantee targeting involuntary unemployed Indonesians that may assist policy makers and other researchers in many disciplines in drafting policy and recommendations towards achieving rapid health and economic recovery as well as sustainable growth and development."



Gunawan Widjaja, Universitas Krisnadwipayana

## Review

"The proposal of Job Guarantee is not in line with government policies as stipulated in Law No.11 the Year 2020 regarding Job Creation. Based on the policy, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia will support the development of the economy through entrepreneurship. Micro enterprises and small enterprises were given advantages. Amendments made for many laws were purposively done to enhance job creation through entrepreneurship.

For publication purposes, it is recommended. However, it would be better for the authors to reconsider amending the term "Job Guarantee" to be adopted, viewed and explained in line with the Job Creation policy."



Michael J Dougherty,

## Review

"This paper tells an important story that should be shared. It proposes a pragmatic positive alternative to the problematic in place policy to solve the current unemployment problem in Indonesia.

The paper addresses an often-ignored health aspect of the current pandemic -- mental health. The cumulative effect of the changes in life made to protect physical health have had their psychological costs. The proposed change to a Job Guarantee program from the Pre-Employment Card program helps to ameliorate some of those negative consequences by removing barriers that some are facing in returning to work. Such a

solution warrants discussion and further examination; this paper can begin such a process.”



Kamal N Kalita, Gauhati University

### **Review**

“It is good as a intersectoral collaboration and their combined effects.

Background information and approach taken seems interesting.

Style is crispy and gives definite direction”

Author response



Mwiza Mbewe,

### **Review**

“Recommended for reading! Linking psychological considerations to economic issues presents a social dimension to policy frameworks/decisions that are often ignored. The proposal thus takes the matter a step forward than most would consider.

Obviously, the devil would be the administrative details with regard to availability of resources given that Indonesia is experiencing a recession, the specific projects to which the proposal and the levels of employment to apply Job Guarantee.”



Ton Van Naerssen,

### **Review**

“The article is well written and its main message is clear. However, It does not deal with institutional reforms and financial aspects . ”



Khaing Khaing Htwe, Department of Agricultural Research Service

### **Review**

“This is worth reading by peers because this article highlights the importance of social activities link to economic and health recovery. Social activities that empower those unemployed who felt helpless are important. In the proposed policy, job guarantee

could induce a perception of job security. This perception is needed to motivate and cultivate a sense of empowerment leading to economic and health recovery.”



Akrivi Vagena, University of Patras

### **Review**

“Interesting ideas providing by the authors.

There are some formatting issues and some typos. I would kindly advise you to check spaces between the words and leave some spaces before and after ABSTRACT, INTRODUCTION, etc.

Also, I would say that it would be good to add some more bibliographic references.

Endly I recommend for publication. ”



Mohinder Kumar, NABARD

### **Review**

“This article has an aura of refreshment in terms of new thinking for new ways of tackling poverty and unemployment. So, it’s unique also at least for economists, economic thinkers and economic policy makers (administrators, consultants, advisors, quantifiers or “quants”, included): “Macropsychological framework”! Who would have thought this novel term with respect to poverty and unemployment alleviation with socio-economic stability goal?

Economists are always stuck at one-dimensional “macroeconomic”. Simon Kuznets would turn in his grave with pessimistic mainstream disagreement when he learns from authors of this article about “abundance” of resources approach –shedding “scarcity” approach which ruled over economics for 500 years. Karl Marx shall turn in his grave, elated with joy, when he learns how succinctly authors have proposed a simple implementable plan of development of “productive forces” or “forces of production” of labor –with focus on mental health, psychological guarantees, assurances and right deliverables by state –i.e. by a variety of public goods and services with active assistance of a class of people whom economics considers unfit, unsuitable, incapable, unable, undeserved and what not.

This is a revolutionary article that succinctly infuses economics with psychology of mental health –in fact psychoanalysis, in the sense that it reads the subtle mind of human laborer –what he wants or expects: Guarantee of work, if not income. Indeed it breaks the cycle of “reification” of thinking in mainstream economics, which loses sight of objects, objectivity and objective reality of the real material world hidden behind impressive equations and jargons. A remarkable perspective by authors!

This article reinforces a version of conditional Universal Basic Income (UBI) for the citizens, which is the need of the hour in this covid pandemic. The article thinks beyond the age of “MNREGA” of India and “New Deal” of USA. The article has good appeal, attraction, innovative thinking and use-value across various categories of readers including economic experts. I would like to recommend this article for publication by the Academia. ”



Samhani Ismail,

### **Review**

“This article proposed a fairly good solution for mental health post COVID-19 especially to tackle the unemployment and underemployment.

This article worth be read.

It is recommended to be published. ”



MORUFU RAIMI, Kwara State University, Malete-ILORIN

### **Review**

“Academia Letters

My Overall Evaluation

RAIMI Morufu Olalekan (Review Comment 30/06/2021)

Accepted with minor revisions

This paper presents a study on National Economic and Health Recovery in the Disruptive Pandemic: A Proposal for Indonesia. The results of this paper bring some useful information. The topic of this paper falls within the scope of the Academia

Letters. The contribution of this paper sounds good; the contents are well performed. I would like to suggest the acceptance of this paper.”



DANILO A N T O N I O BALTIERI,

### **Review**

“Yes, it is an interesting letter that attempts to elucidate mechanisms for reducing post-pandemic unemployment. The authors cite diverse economic theories to sustain their goals.

However, theory is one thing and practical actions are another thing. I would like to see practical examples of providing job guarantees in chaotic situations. A few countries have given unemployed people an emergency aid, and we do not know who will pay for this in the future. This should be discussed in this letter.

”



Steve Yisa, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MINNA-NIGERIA

### **Review**

“Thank you for the opportunity.

I have read the work and is worth reading by my peers. Because, it talk about two powerful elements which have what it takes to shape any nation. One is the economy and second the health. The two are linked to unemployment in the country.

My little worry about the work are these: 1. There should be more reviews on strategies put in place by both Government and NGOs in Indonesia to tackle or solve the problems.

2. There should be more recommendation.

Thank you.”



Walter Fiori, None (Private)



## Review

“The paper emphasises that it is not only the economic loss and its recovery caused by the pandemic that is important. People also face potential physical and mental health issues when they lose their job and income. Their well-being is equally as important.

Their conclusion that “Apart from economic recovery, health recovery is vital” is paramount.

The authors are advocating the introduction of a government sponsored novel plan of action they call the “Job Guarantee” policy. Their suggested program transforms the current emphasis from principally an economic recovery to one that supports both an economic and a physical and mental health recovery with the added aims of tackling poverty, inequality and achieving full employment.

The paper covers many important aspects but summarises rather than details suggested measures that would have to be undertaken to evaluate and introduce such a program. Nor does it explain how it would interact with the basics of capitalism and a free market. Possibly these simplifications are due to the “Academia Letters” format of the submitted paper. This is a great pity as it is extremely important to delve into the issues in far greater depth and detail as the paper has to answer questions such as:

What actual work would the government have these people do that utilises their time, skills, provides them with job satisfaction and is productive to the State?

Does the government have the resources, the management infrastructure and the investment capital to embark on such a program?

What are the expected terms of tenure and what guarantees should the implementation of the proposed program provide?

If perception is needed to motivate the unemployed then could the individual also be subjected to a demotivating perception of a loss of work if tenure is not guaranteed?

How does the program meet the challenge of overcoming the poverty of people that are unable to work because of age, mental or physical impairment or simply because they choose not to work?

As it stands the paper offers an opinion on a matter that is crucial to the well-being of people facing the loss of work because of the pandemic (and possibly other reasons

as well). The authors' statements and suggestions to overcome their concerns are worth reading but I would like to see the authors present a detailed paper on this matter in the near future.

”



Appel Mahmud, University of Science and Technology of China

#### **Review**

“This excellent write-up prescribes a set of fit strategies to overcome economic and health sufferings among the Indonesian population. It also enables to catch the wide readers' attention and policymakers' views for set subsequent actions to solve the crises concerning health and unemployment. ”



Shubhi Agarwal, CHAUDHARY CHARAN SINGH UNIVERSITY MEERUT

#### **Review**

“Yes, it's good to raise the unemployment aspect as it is faced by almost every citizen of all the countries. ”



Fahrul Nurkolis, State Islamic University Of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta

#### **Review**

“Agree, but please add Some additional references. Double-check your citation, it's in the main paper but only 2 in the bibliography?”



Terence Hull, The Australian National University

#### **Review**

“This article will enrage conservative economists, but spark debate among policy wonks. JG is an interesting suggestion in the Indonesian context. ”



carmen blyth PhD,

#### **Review**

“An interesting and well documented piece that should provoke discussion amongst readers. The letter is well written and proposes a different take on the pandemic and ways of ameliorating the economic situation exacerbated in Indonesia by the lockdowns and illness.”



Ananda Majumdar, University of Alberta

### **Review**

“It is a good article. Writing structure is good and precise. It has given all required data and information by following qualitative approach. Though references are limited but for a short article, it is ok. It looks like a managed article through various authors. Therefore, the article is just right for the publication. A good article has different perspectives in the context of its nature. This article has maintained all of its criteria's to recognize as a suitable fit for academia publication. ”