Communication Patterns Of The Indonesian National Police In Confronting Radical Group Proganda On Social Media During The Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract
This research explores the communication patterns employed by the Indonesian National Police (POLRI) in addressing propaganda from radical groups on social media during the Covid-19 pandemic. Utilizing a qualitative approach, the study analyzes POLRI's communication content on social media platforms and investigates the communication strategies implemented to counter radical group propaganda. The findings highlight POLRI's active efforts in utilizing social media as a means to convey real-time information regarding their actions, with an emphasis on national values and the promotion of diversity. An analysis of the social media content of radical groups is also conducted to understand their communication strategies and online behavioral patterns. The research reveals the complex dynamics in the interaction between POLRI and radical groups in the virtual sphere, showcasing challenges and both positive and negative responses from the public to police efforts. Practical implications of the research include recommendations to enhance the capacity of police personnel in managing social media, intensifying collaboration with social media platforms, and increasing transparency in disseminating information to the public as measures to enhance the effectiveness of police communication in tackling propagandistic challenges from radical groups during this pandemic era.

Keywords: Indonesian National Police, communication patterns, social media, propaganda, radical groups, Covid-19 pandemic

INTRODUCTION

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has profoundly impacted various aspects of life, including national security. Amid global efforts to combat the virus's spread and mitigate economic repercussions, a new and increasingly prominent threat has emerged – the dissemination of radical propaganda on social media. This situation is of serious concern, particularly for countries vulnerable to extremism and terrorism, such as Indonesia.

Throughout its history, Indonesia has actively fought against terrorism and radicalism, with the Indonesian National Police (POLRI) playing a central role. Legal instruments, such as Law Number 5 of 2018, serve as the basis for addressing terrorism and radicalism. Various measures have been taken during the pandemic, including a legal approach viewing such actions as crimes. The National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT), established in 2010, coordinates efforts and adapts to evolving threats. The synergy between POLRI and the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), regulated by Law Number 34 of 2004, strengthens counterterrorism efforts. Deradicalization has become a crucial component, involving efforts to change individual motivations, re-education, rehabilitation, and social welfare enhancement. Deradicalization programs strategically contribute to combating radicalism, assisting individuals in departing from extremist ideologies, and supporting peace and stability.

In addition to domestic efforts, Indonesia employs external strategies in counterterrorism through regional, bilateral, and multilateral cooperation. Regionally, cooperation is carried out through forums like ASEAN Chiefs of National Police, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC). Bilateral cooperation includes initiatives such as the Jakarta Center for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC) with Australia, as well as various forums and collaborations with other countries in intelligence sharing, capacity

building, and technical cooperation. Multilateral cooperation involves organizations like UNODC, UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Indonesia supports international resolutions and initiatives in counterterrorism.

The Indonesian government is comprehensively addressing terrorism and radicalism threats, both nationally and through international cooperation, adopting various strategies. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has altered dynamics, potentially strengthening radical groups' propaganda and recruitment efforts. Economic disruptions and social isolation create ideal conditions for these groups to spread radicalization narratives through social media, a widely used communication tool for recruiting new members and instigating fear in society. Radical groups' threat, as seen in incidents like the 2016 Brussels attacks, reflects global impacts involving online radicalization, infrastructure vulnerabilities, and challenges in international cooperation (International Crisis Group, 2016). Such attacks underscore the crucial role of social media in reinforcing extremist ideologies, planning attacks, and recruiting new members, with the internet serving as an easily accessible source of propaganda material and radical views (Pantucci, R, 2016).

During the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia, the threat of attacks by radical groups remains a significant concern. Despite mobility and social activity reductions due to restrictions, security forces have identified and prevented several incidents and attempted attacks. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia, several incidents related to radical group attack attempts surfaced. The arrest of terrorists in Solo in August 2020, successfully thwarting a bombing plan, illustrates the determination of radical groups to pursue violent agendas even within the constraints of restrictions and reduced mobility. Effective collaboration and intelligence sharing among security forces, especially the police, intelligence agencies, and other security institutions, are crucial in addressing terrorism threats during the pandemic, as seen in this incident.

The arrests of Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD) members in Jakarta in December 2020 and the attack on Polrestabes Medan in March 2021 highlight the continuous activities of radical groups and the urgency of swift responses from security forces (The Jakarta Post, 2021). The bomb attack in Makassar in March 2021, with its tragic consequences, demonstrates the radical groups' capacity to plan potentially deadly attacks, emphasizing the importance of vigilance and effective responses to counter terrorism threats. POLRI continues to enhance its readiness to detect and prevent potential terrorist attacks, with a quick and effective response being crucial to maintaining public security. Collaboration with the community and a deep understanding of radical groups and their ideologies are also necessary to minimize the impact of terrorism threats. Although some attacks have been prevented or resulted in limited casualties, the need to remain vigilant against terrorism and radicalism threats during the pandemic remains a priority. The arrests of radical groups and the uncovering of attack plans affirm that radical efforts persist, and security forces must stay focused on prevention, detection, and mitigation of these threats.

Radicalization and terrorism continue to be serious issues even during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the government has implemented movement restrictions during the pandemic, radical individuals and groups remain active. Santitarn Sathirathai, Group Chief Economist at Sebayang, notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has acted as a powerful accelerator for digital transformation (Sebayang, 2020). Radical groups from various ideologies have sought to exploit this situation to spread their extremist propaganda (Pantucci et al., 2020). ISIS and Al-Qaeda, for example, have adjusted their strategies to emphasize their existence in the online world and encourage their followers to increase terrorist attacks (Jati & Mamoto, 2021). This pandemic has also increased online radicalism activities (Mullins, 2020).

In Indonesia, the internet has become the primary medium for the spread of radicalism and terrorism. Previously, terrorists recruited covertly, but now they openly recruit through websites and social media, even conducting theirtrials online (ICG, 2016). The internet allows terrorists to disseminate propaganda easily and connect with potential recruits globally. It also enables the coordination of attacks and the spread of extremist ideologies. In recent years, Indonesia has seen a rise in cyber terrorism and attacks on critical infrastructure, further emphasizing the need for robust cybersecurity measures (ASEAN Briefing, 2020).

Countering the spread of radicalism during the COVID-19 pandemic requires a multifaceted approach. First and foremost, there is a need for enhanced online surveillance and intelligence gathering to identify and counteract extremist propaganda effectively. This involves collaboration between technology companies, government agencies, and international partners to monitor and take down content that promotes violence and radical ideologies.

Additionally, public awareness campaigns can play a vital role in educating the population about the dangers of online radicalization and providing tools to recognize and report extremist content. Civil society organizations, religious leaders, and educators should be actively involved in these campaigns to reach a broad audience and debunk radical ideologies.

Moreover, addressing the root causes of radicalization is essential. This includes socio-economic factors, political grievances, and issues related to identity and belonging. Implementing programs that promote inclusivity, tolerance, and community engagement can contribute to preventing individuals from falling prey to extremist ideologies.

International cooperation remains crucial in the fight against terrorism and radicalism. Sharing intelligence, best practices, and coordinating efforts to counter online radicalization will enhance the effectiveness of counterterrorism measures. Regional forums, such as ASEAN, provide a platform for countries to collaborate in addressing common security challenges.

In conclusion, countering radicalism during the COVID-19 pandemic requires a comprehensive and adaptive approach. By leveraging technology, promoting public awareness, addressing root causes, and fostering international cooperation, countries like Indonesia can strengthen their resilience against the evolving threat of radicalization and terrorism.

This research is titled "Communication Pattern of the Indonesian National Police Facing Propaganda of Radical Groups on Social Media During the Covid-19 Pandemic."

RESEARCH METHODS

This research adopts a qualitative approach with a case study design to investigate the Communication Patterns of the Indonesian National Police (POLRI) in addressing radical groups on social media during the Covid-19 pandemic. This approach is chosen for its ability to respond to the dynamics and complexities of the situation that emerged during the pandemic. The POLRI case study as the research subject provides in-depth coverage of government propaganda strategies and public responses in the digital era. Focusing on the Communication Patterns of POLRI, this research aims to provide profound insights into efforts to prevent the spread of radical propaganda, reduce the radicalization process of individuals, and maintain social stability through social media.

The research is focused on the Cyber Security Division of the Indonesian National Police, and the study period extends from August to December 2023. Data is collected through literature reviews, analysis of government social media content, and public responses to propaganda content. Involving interviews with POLRI members engaged in the monitoring, observation, and mitigation of radical content, this research employs data collection techniques such as observation, document tracing, and content analysis. The data analysis involves identifying

patterns, themes, and messages that emerge in government social media content and public responses.

The research is expected to make a significant contribution to understanding the dynamics of government propaganda strategies and public responses to radical groups on social media during the Covid-19 pandemic. The methodology includes a careful selection of research subjects using purposive sampling, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives. The research is conducted with a meticulous schedule from the preparation of the proposal to the final thesis defense.

The subject of the research involves key figures in the Indonesian National Police, including the Director of the Cyber Crime Division and other high-ranking officers. Ethical considerations are prioritized throughout the research process, particularly regarding the privacy and confidentiality of subjects involved in monitoring radical groups.

The object of the research focuses on the communication patterns adopted by POLRI in countering radical groups operating on social media during the Covid-19 pandemic. The research aims to shed light on the strategies and actions taken by POLRI to prevent the spread of radical propaganda, reduce individual radicalization processes, and maintain social stability through counter-radical efforts on social media.

Data collection techniques include interviews, observations, and document tracing. Interviews are conducted with various stakeholders, including representatives from the police, cybersecurity experts, social media practitioners, and the general public. Observations involve monitoring activities on social media, focusing on accounts associated with radical groups or potentially radical content. Document tracing includes the analysis of official government policies to understand the theoretical foundations shaping propaganda strategies.

In summary, this research employs a comprehensive methodology to delve into the Communication Patterns of POLRI in addressing radical groups on social media during the Covid-19 pandemic. The use of qualitative methods, in-depth data collection techniques, and a systematic analysis approach contribute to a thorough understanding of the dynamics surrounding government propaganda and public responses in the digital era.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The discussion and results of this research highlight the holistic approach adopted by the Indonesian National Police (POLRI) in addressing the threats posed by radical groups on social media. By focusing on the identification of communication patterns, themes, and emerging messages, in-depth data analysis was conducted to comprehend the complexity of the dynamics involved. Furthermore, the research findings reveal that POLRI implements effective preventive strategies through digital literacy campaigns and rapid responses to misleading information. Close collaboration with various stakeholders, including social media platforms, educational institutions, and civil society, emerges as a key element in POLRI's efforts to safeguard national security in the digital era. Overall, this discussion details POLRI's significant contribution to mitigating radical propaganda on social media, with the research results serving as a foundation for a deeper understanding of the dynamics of asymmetric communication strategies amid the current global challenges.

1. **POLRI Communication Patterns in Countering Radical Propaganda on Social Media through Asymmetric Warfare Communication**

In this digital era, social media has become a primary communication channel playing a crucial role in shaping opinions and influencing societal behaviors. The presence of radical groups utilizing social media for disseminating propaganda and recruiting followers poses a

serious challenge to national security. The Indonesian National Police (POLRI), as the security guardian in Indonesia, recognizes the urgency of addressing the spread of radical messages and formulates effective prevention strategies.

Firstly, the Holistic Approach. Confronting the rampant threat of radicalization in the era of social media, POLRI adopts a holistic approach as its main strategic foundation. The profound interest in this approach lies in acknowledging the complexity of the dynamics of messages circulating and received by the public. POLRI understands that achieving maximum success in preventing radicalization requires a deep understanding of the social context that gives rise to these messages. Thus, POLRI's holistic approach becomes not just a method but a solid foundation for formulating prevention policies that are not only effective but also measurable. The holistic approach of POLRI provides comprehensive understanding of the complexities of factors shaping and influencing radical messages on social media. This includes an understanding of the social, cultural, and psychological differences that constitute society. For example, POLRI investigates how social inequality, cultural polarization, and individual psychological tendencies play a role in driving the spread of radical messages. In this comprehensive approach, POLRI not only addresses symptoms but also targets the root causes of the issues at hand.

The holistic approach of POLRI is not limited to the security domain alone; it encompasses social, psychological, and cultural aspects shaping the messaging environment on social media. Through a profound understanding of this complexity, POLRI can create prevention policies that are more adaptive and responsive to the ever-changing dynamics. Additionally, POLRI can respond more effectively to the evolving tactics of radical groups, ensuring that prevention strategies are not left behind in the rapidly developing online world. By embracing the holistic approach, POLRI provides evidence of its commitment not only to respond to surface-level radicalization threats but also to address the root causes entrenched in social structures. This approach reflects POLRI's determination to safeguard national defense comprehensively, understanding that the threat is not only physical but also involves ideological battles and influences in the digital realm. Thus, POLRI's holistic approach in the context of asymmetric warfare communication becomes a vital instrument in maintaining national sovereignty and stability amidst the onslaught of radical messages on social media.

Aligned with the holistic approach, POLRI implements further strategies through the launch of a digital literacy campaign. This step is taken as a concrete effort to empower the community with critical analysis skills toward online content. Acknowledging that the threat of radicalization involves the dissemination of extreme and harmful messages on social media, POLRI recognizes the importance of equipping the public with adequate tools to sift through information.

POLRI's digital literacy campaign aims not only to filter out harmful content but also to provide skills to the public to critically understand and assess information. This establishes a strong foundation for individuals to identify the characteristics of radical messages and develop the ability to assess the truth and reliability of information. By empowering the community through digital literacy, POLRI strives to create a robust defense layer against radical propaganda in the virtual world.

The POLRI digital literacy campaign is not just about raising awareness of the dangers of radicalization but also about giving the community the ability to become wiser information consumers. By organizing training, workshops, and providing educational resources, POLRI provides tools for the public to actively reject harmful radical messages. This campaign creates an environment where the community can act as collective guardians in preventing the spread of harmful ideologies through social media.

Through the digital literacy campaign, POLRI not only fulfills its role as law enforcement but also emerges as a pioneer in empowering the community to counter the threat of radicalization. By providing critical analysis skills for online content, POLRI stimulates the growth of intelligent and critical individuals in the virtual realm. This initiative creates a society that is not only resilient to radical propaganda but also actively contributes to maintaining the sustainability of national security and stability in the complex digital era.

In the context of asymmetric warfare communication, POLRI takes a proactive approach through swift responses to fake news or damaging narratives. Speed in identifying and responding to misleading information is a key element in mitigating the influence of radical groups in the era of social media. POLRI is not only reactive to online threats but also proactive in creating a safer and protected digital environment.

POLRI's quick response is not only dependent on speed in identifying harmful content but also ensures that actions taken are precise and effective. By combining speed and precision, POLRI not only addresses symptoms but also strives to formulate fundamental solutions. Rapid responsiveness becomes an effective tool in minimizing the spread of radical propaganda and mitigating its impact on society.

In addition to quick responses, POLRI also emphasizes the need to address the root causes of radicalization. POLRI understands that for long-term success, efforts must be made to address the social, economic, and political factors contributing to anxiety and dissatisfaction in society. By understanding and addressing these root causes, POLRI creates a foundation to prevent the emergence of dissatisfaction that can be exploited by radical groups.

POLRI's handling of the root causes of radicalization includes a holistic approach involving various stakeholders. Through collaboration with government agencies, the private sector, and civil society, POLRI seeks to create positive changes in the structure of society. Focusing on comprehensive problem-solving, POLRI plays its role as law enforcement not only addressing real impacts but also preventing potential threats in the future.

By integrating quick responses and addressing root causes, POLRI builds a solid foundation to realize holistic security. Quick responses provide instant protection, while addressing root causes creates a safer and more stable environment in the long run. As the frontline defender of national security, POLRI demonstrates its commitment to facing the complex challenges of radicalization by combining tactical dynamism with sustainable strategies.

In confronting the increasingly complex threat of radicalization, POLRI plays a central role as the frontline protector of national security. Recognition of the essence of collaboration is a central point in POLRI's strategy, especially in the context of the rapidly evolving social media era. POLRI takes concrete steps by forming close partnerships with social media platforms, educational institutions, and civil society groups.

POLRI's collaboration is not just about expanding coverage and optimizing resources but also about creating a holistic ecosystem. Through close cooperation with social media platforms, POLRI gains a deep understanding of the dynamics of the digital environment where radical messages spread. This allows POLRI to design more tactical strategies in addressing the threat of radicalization on social media.

Furthermore, POLRI encourages inclusive dialogue as a strategic foundation to mitigate polarization and build shared understanding. Through open and inclusive dialogue, POLRI is committed to building trust among various parties. This collaboration not only enhances responsibility toward threats but also shapes an environment that promotes inclusivity and diversity.

POLRI's collaboration is not only national but also open to international dimensions. Given that radical groups operate globally, POLRI recognizes the importance of coordination

with security institutions from various countries. By executing cross-border synergies, POLRI can access essential information and support in confronting radicalization threats that transcend national borders. By emphasizing collaboration and inclusive dialogue, POLRI builds a foundation for collective security in the digital era. These efforts reflect POLRI's commitment not only as an effective law enforcement agency but also as a major player in solutions involving all stakeholders. By forming synergies at all levels, POLRI presents a collective effort that not only protects national security but also promotes peace and stability on aglobal scale.

The importance of responding to radicalization threats on social media is not limited to conventional realms but also involves the increasingly crucial dimension of cyber security. With a proactive vision, POLRI acknowledges that developing capacities in the field of cyber security is an integral part of an effective strategy for preventing radicalization. Considering the development of technology and the evolution of threats in the digital world, POLRI views cyber security as something that cannot be ignored. In detailing strategies for preventing radicalization, POLRI focuses not only on the identification and handling of radical content on social media but also on protecting the national information system from cyber attacks that could threaten state stability. Capacity development in cyber security includes continuous updates to security technologies, improvement of POLRI's analysis team skills, and collaboration with relevant parties at national and international levels. POLRI understands that involving cyber security in their strategy is a strategic step to protect not only sensitive state information but also to mitigate the risks that can arise from cyber attacks by radical groups. By incorporating cyber security into their strategic foundation, POLRI demonstrates its commitment to facing evolving threats in the digital era. This effort is not only to maintain the stability of the state in the virtual world but also to build a strong and resilient national defense across the spectrum of threats, including the increasingly complex digital realm. In facing the complexity and ever-changing dynamics of social media, POLRI takes an approach of continuous evaluation and learning as the basis for strengthening strategies for preventing radicalization. Evaluation is not only the key to measuring the success of applied strategies but also a critical tool in enhancing POLRI's adaptability to changes in online dynamics. POLRI realizes that regular internal evaluations are essential steps to assess the effectiveness of various aspects of their communication strategies. This process includes in-depth analysis of public responses, the impact of digital literacy campaigns, the effectiveness of quick responses to misleading information, and the outcomes of collaborative efforts across sectors. However, POLRI's evaluation is not solely focused on internal aspects; it also involves external stakeholders, such as educational institutions, social media platforms, and civil society groups. By engaging with various parties, POLRI gains a broader and deeper perspective on the dynamics of social media and the effectiveness of strategies for preventing radicalization. More than just evaluation, POLRI sees continuous learning as the foundation for improving their asymmetric warfare communication strategies. Evaluation results are not only assessments of success but also serve as a basis for adjustments and innovations. By detailing continuous learning, POLRI can understand changes in the tactics and strategies of radical groups and adjust their approach in a timely manner.

In order to create a fast and adaptive response to evolving threats, POLRI's continuous learning involves enhancing the capacity of the analysis team to understand current trends on social media and leverage them to refine their communication strategies. Thus, POLRI's evaluation and continuous learning are not only internal cycles for performance improvement but also proactive tools to maintain the sustainability and relevance of their communication strategies in the face of constant changes in the online world.

2. POLRI's Asymmetric Communication in Combating Radical Propaganda on Social Media

In this challenging digital era, social media has become the main stage where radical propaganda flourishes and spreads rapidly. Factors influencing the intensity, types, and dissemination of radical propaganda on social media create complex dynamics in communication between POLRI and radical groups. In this context, asymmetric communication becomes a fundamental foundation that requires wise and measured responses to maintain national security. One central factor that needs to be addressed is the deepening social and economic disparities. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in society, creating dissatisfaction that radical groups exploit to spread their propaganda. Asymmetric communication between POLRI and radical groups must create messages responsive to the needs of the community, offer constructive solutions, and demonstrate commitment to enhancing collective well-being. Social isolation and uncertainty resulting from the pandemic also play a crucial role in the dynamics of this asymmetric communication. The atmosphere of uncertainty makes individuals more susceptible to radical propaganda messages promising certainty or decisive solutions. POLRI needs to design messages that provide clarity, address uncertainty, and open transparent communication channels with the public. The spread of hate speech on social media further complicates the situation and accelerates the dissemination of radical propaganda. In asymmetric communication, POLRI responds quickly to hate speech, reaffirms its commitment to constructive dialogue, and builds messages that oppose extremist rhetoric. Restricting hate speech is key to breaking the chain of radical propaganda dissemination. Digital literacy and understanding of technology are essential elements in this asymmetric communication. POLRI must develop communication strategies considering the level of digital literacy and technological understanding of the public. Education related to identifying radical content and enhancing technological literacy for critical information assessment is an essential step in addressing this challenge.

The increased consumption of digital content by the public provides an opening for radical propaganda. In the context of asymmetric communication, POLRI understands the preferences and content consumption behavior of the public. By adjusting their messages to more effective formats and channels, POLRI can better compete for the public's attention against radical group propaganda. By understanding and integrating these factors into asymmetric communication strategies, POLRI can effectively respond to the challenges of radical propaganda dissemination on social media. This is not only a battle against radical ideologies but also an information war in the digital realm. In facing this complexity, POLRI needs to continue developing and refining its asymmetric communication strategies to remain at the forefront of maintaining national security.

3. Positive Impact of POLRI's Communication Pattern in Maintaining National Security

The communication pattern implemented by POLRI in the context of asymmetric warfare communication not only has strategic implications but also brings significant positive impacts in maintaining national security. Several key aspects reflecting these positive impacts involve strengthening the security climate, increasing public awareness, and building a robust collaborative foundation. One striking positive impact is the strengthening of the security climate in society. This is a significant positive consequence of the communication pattern implemented by POLRI. Responsiveness and transparency in information delivery by POLRI become the main pillars in shaping an atmosphere of trust and security within the community.

Firstly, POLRI's success in presenting information clearly and accurately creates a strong foundation of trust among the public. By providing timely clarification and avoiding misinformation, POLRI not only reduces confusion among the public but also demonstrates a

commitment to transparency, a key element in building trust. Moreover, a measurable positive impact is the reduction of uncertainty in society. The proactive and informative communication pattern from POLRI helps address uncertainties that may arise due to security situations. By providing in-depth understanding of the latest developments, POLRI offers much-needed clarity, guides the community through security challenges, and minimizes unnecessary anxiety. The importance of this security atmosphere lies in its positive impact on public perception related to efforts to maintain national security. Witnessing open and clear communication from POLRI, the public becomes more optimistic and supportive of the steps taken to ensure security. This positive perception then stimulates active public participation in supporting security and prevention programs initiated by POLRI. Overall, strengthening the security climate through POLRI's communication pattern creates a stable and peaceful social environment. The trust built between POLRI and the public forms a strong foundation in joint efforts to maintain national security. By actively engaging the public and providing reliable information, POLRI not only performs its law enforcement function but also becomes a reliable partner in achieving collective stability and tranquility. In the context of asymmetric warfare communication, public awareness becomes a key element in confronting radical propaganda. POLRI has successfully garnered increased public awareness through its proactive communication approach. One significant step taken is through the organization of digital literacy campaigns. Through digital literacy campaigns, POLRI not only provides information but also equips the public with critical analysis skills for online content. This step creates a strong defense layer against radical propaganda that may emerge on social media. By enhancing public understanding of how to identify, assess, and respond to radical content, POLRI helps build effective social resilience. The importance of these digital literacy campaigns lies in empowering the public to become smart and critical content consumers. By improving analytical skills, the public can be more vigilant against the potential dangers of radical propaganda, enabling them to take preventive and responsive actions. Therefore, POLRI not only focuses on countering the effects of radical propaganda but also invests in prevention by empowering the public through increased digital literacy. By involving the public in the prevention process, POLRI not only performs the role of law enforcement but also acts as a partner in building collective security. Digital literacy campaigns represent a progressive step in enhancing the community's capacity to face the threats of radicalization in the era of social media, making awareness the primary weapon in the information war involving all parties. POLRI's communication pattern creates a significant positive impact through the establishment of a robust collaborative foundation. Active collaboration with various stakeholders, such as social media platforms, educational institutions, and civil society groups, serves as a strategic foundation for maintaining national security. Through inclusive dialogue and close partnerships, POLRI not only expands its coverage and resources but also forms a holistic ecosystem in preventing radicalization. By collaborating actively, POLRI not only becomes an effective law enforcement entity but also builds a network that involves the entire societal sector.

This collaboration not only creates cross-sectoral synergy but also provides a positive impetus in countering the threat of radicalization. POLRI's cooperation with social media platforms opens avenues for a deeper understanding of the online environment where radical messages thrive. This enables POLRI to design more adaptive and effective strategies in addressing the emerging threats of radicalization on social media. By forming a robust collaborative ecosystem, POLRI plays a central role in creating joint efforts to maintain national security. This ongoing collaboration not only responds to current challenges but also paves the way for sustainable solutions in facing the complex security dynamics in the digital era.

As a result of the effectively implemented communication pattern, POLRI can achieve the goals of preventing radicalization more efficiently. This positive impact is reflected not only

in improved security statistics but also in the sense of security and trust that the public has in law enforcement institutions. By building and strengthening asymmetric warfare communication patterns, POLRI serves as the frontline in maintaining national security, creating a safe environment, and establishing a strong foundation for a more stable future.

CONCLUSION

The communication pattern of the Indonesian National Police (POLRI) in facing the spread of radical propaganda on social media during the pandemic reflects an asymmetric warfare communication strategy in the context of national defense. Asymmetric warfare communication refers to the efforts of a party, in this case, POLRI, to use unconventional or unbalanced methods in dealing with threats or adversaries who possess different strengths or resources. In this context, POLRI confronts radical groups as adversaries using social media as the primary tool for spreading propaganda. In understanding the factors influencing the intensity and dissemination of radical propaganda, POLRI must employ an asymmetric warfare approach that not only focuses on conventional military responses but also encompasses holistic communication and prevention aspects.

Firstly, POLRI's rapid response to the spread of radical propaganda reflects the principles of asymmetric warfare that emphasize flexibility and adaptability in facing threats. POLRI identifies and responds at high speed, creating uncertainty for radical groups and reducing the effectiveness of their propaganda. Secondly, POLRI's holistic approach, which includes prevention, identifying root causes, and collaborating with the community, is a manifestation of asymmetric warfare strategy. It not only responds to symptoms but also seeks solutions at the root of the problem, providing long-term impact and strengthening national defense from within.

Community involvement in detecting and reporting the spread of radical propaganda creates the necessary cooperation in asymmetric warfare. POLRI forms a strong defense layer by empowering the community through digital literacy campaigns, making them active defense agents against the threat of radical propaganda.

Collaboration with social media platforms is an effective implementation of asymmetric strategy. POLRI forms close partnerships with relevant parties, recognizing that radical groups exploit information technology to spread propaganda. This collaboration enables POLRI to turn the technological advantage held by radical groups into their own weaknesses. Thus, through a measured and careful asymmetric warfare communication pattern, POLRI can achieve national defense goals effectively by facing the threat of radical propaganda in the era of social media. Success in managing this complexity involves not only military responses but also intelligent and technology-based communication strategies.

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