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Journal of Management, Business and Social Science	Pages 203-296	Bandar Lampung, January, 2024
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**4<sup>st</sup> Edition, 2024**

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# THE EFFECT OF RISK-BASED INTERNAL AUDIT (RBIA) IMPLEMENTATION ON AUDIT QUALITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

(Case Study: Internal Supervisory Unit of National Social Security Agency for Employment)

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## ABSTRACT

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*The goal of this study was to ascertain whether the deployment of risk-based internal audits at the National Social Security Agency for Employment or BPJS Ketenagakerjaan has an impact on audit quality during the Covid-19 pandemic. The subject of this study was a sample of 73 respondents who worked as auditors for the National Social Security Agency for Employment or BPJS Ketenagakerjaan Internal Supervisory Unit.*

*Based on the findings of this research, the use of risk-based internal audit with indicators identifying universal audit, type of audit, risk audit, data nature audit, and these three intensity positions during the Covid-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, there was a positive and significant impact on the quality of audits at the BPJS Employment Internal Monitoring Unit, the National Social Security Agency for Employment.*

*Changes to audit rules, as well as artificial intelligence training, network security and development of data functions, can all be done to improve the quality of auditor human resources and combat the impact of Covid 19 on audit quality.*

**Keywords:** Risk Based Internal Audit, Audit Quality, Covid-19 Pandemic

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## Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a wide-ranging impact on various sectors. Large-scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) have resulted in problems in the field and labor sector (Moktadir et al., 2023). First from the employer and worker side, during this pandemic, most businesses have experienced a decline, during the implementation of Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB), some companies were not even allowed to operate (Oikonomou et al., 2023). As a result, there are companies that decide to lay off workers or order workers to work from home (Zakiyy, 2021). On the other hand, production is reduced and the company's cash flow is disrupted, but on the other hand, it still has to pay its workers (Bae & Kang, 2023). As a result, employers choose not to pay their employees full salaries or not to pay other benefits such as social security protection benefits (Gibbs et al., 2023). Some employers even choose to reduce the number of their employees through layoffs (Probst et al., 2017). Second, from the side of the Social Security Organizing Agency, the inability of companies to pay massive employment social security contributions can have an impact on the amount of the Social Security (Barusman et al., 2020). The National Social Security Agency for Employment (BPJS Ketenagakerjaan) must make a number of adjustments to ensure that performance goals are met, including adjustments to audit patterns (Adam et al., 2019). The achievement table also explains the significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which is one of the significant risks.

4<sup>st</sup> Edition, January, 24

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Table 1. Realization of Key Performance Indicator Achievement BPJS Employment

No	Description	% Realization / Annual Target			
		2021	2020	2019	2018
1	<b>Strategic Outcome</b>				
	Total revenue from PU, BPU and construction services contributions	103,30 %	83,49 %	101,98 %	107,11 %
	Total of active PU, BPU and Construction Services workers	90,87 %	78,66 %	106,63 %	146,30 %
	Total of active workers for the JHT program	91,12 %	85,03 %	100,21 %	121,71 %
	Addition of PU and BPU workers	76,91 %	71,86 %	112,30 %	178,40 %
	PU and BPU participant retention rates..	65,88 %	67,74 %	97,13 %	120 %
2	<b>Strategic Driver</b>				
	Business entities pay monthly dues	69 %	60,11 %	92,15 %	93,50 %
	Business entities pay dues on time	76,13 %	65,52 %	99,85 %	121,54 %
3	<b>Strategic Resources</b>				
	% Budget absorption	93,75 %	83,72 %	98,27 %	98,95 %
	% Average realization of work program achievements	83,49 %	82,43 %	90,03 %	97,71 %

Source: Data processing from SMILE Application (Worker Protection Information System), 2022

Changes in considerations in the process and pattern of auditing adaptation to new habits during the Covid-19 pandemic, making auditors in the National Social Security Agency for Employment or BPJS Ketenagakerjaan Internal Supervisory Unit and auditees feel the difference in the audit process before and after Covid-19. Among others:

- a. Increasing the level of audit risk as a result of the high uncertainty associated with the spread of Covid-19, which requires additional audit procedures.
- b. Expanding the scope of the risk assessment process conducted by the internal audit activity to include risks arising from Covid-19.
- c. There is no certainty of the value or weight of the effectiveness of governance, risk management, and controls that are the scope of audits during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- d. Continuous updating of planning, according to Aguinis & Burgi-Tian, (2021) existing experience shows that internal auditors must allocate twice as much time to conduct planning meetings or during obstacles to physical visits (travel bans or lockdowns).
- e. Differences in the characteristics of determining the audit universe, type of audit, type of risk, and nature of audit data.
- f. It takes more time to prepare and upload documents to file-sharing platforms (google drive, etc.) when compared to providing access to archives and documents at the workplace.
- g. Due to several limitations, physical field checks cannot be maximized and even carried out. For example Inventory control is carried out by means of planning supported by policies relating to the inventory of goods (Geetha et al., 2020).
- h. Obstacles in establishing a communication relationship between auditors and auditees on a face-to-face basis. to explain more specific matters, a face-to-face meeting is required.
- i. Closing meetings remotely require longer preparation, because they have to review records, and documents on audit findings and are constrained in the process of testing evidence on audit follow-up.

Based on the background that has been explained, this research wants to see the effect of implementing Based Audit (RBIA) on audit quality in the BPJS Ketenagakerjaan internal supervision unit during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Literature Review**

**a. Risk Based Internal**

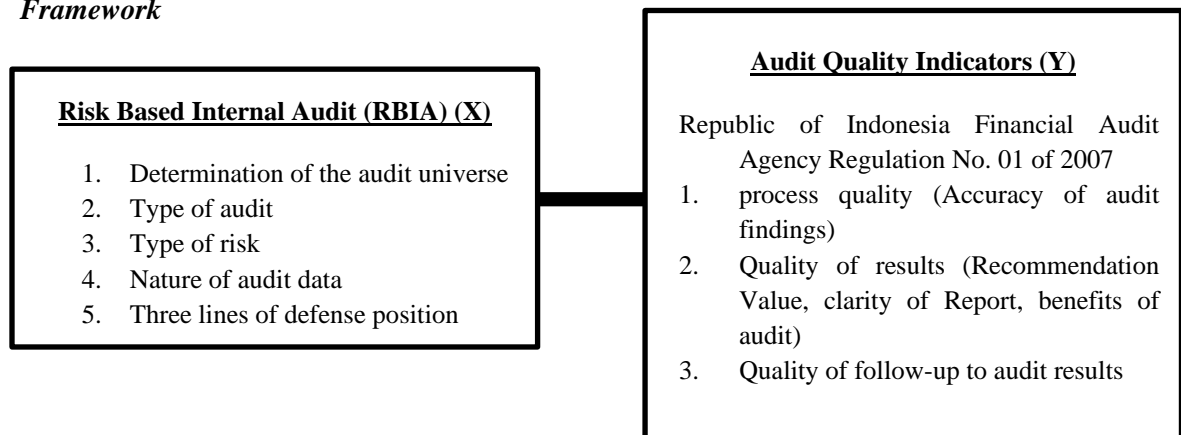
The purpose of risk-based internal audit is to create value and enhance an organization's operations. It is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity (Xie, 2020). Through a systematic and ongoing approach to assessing and improving the efficacy of risk management, control, and corporate governance systems, internal audit supports businesses in achieving their goals (Christopher, 2018). (BPJS Ketenagakerjaan Internal Supervisory Unit Guidelines for Risk-Based Internal Audit 2011)

**b. Audit Quality**

According to the Regulation of the Supreme Audit Agency of the Republic of Indonesia No. 01 of 2007 concerning State Financial Audit Standards (SPKN) (Sihombing, 2023). Explaining the measurement of audit quality must be based on the following matters, namely:

- a. Process Quality (Accuracy of audit findings)
- b. The efficacy of the settlement reached by the organization under investigation determines how much was gained from the audit work, not the audit meeting, the audit findings that were turned into the report, or the recommendations given. Additionally, the audit must be meticulously completed in accordance with procedures (Arifin et al., 2018)
- c. Quality of Results (Value of recommendations clarity of report, audit usefulness).
- d. The management of the audited entity has the responsibility to follow up on the recommendations and to establish and maintain a process and information system to monitor the status of follow-up on the auditors' recommendations (Arifin et al., 2018).
- e. Quality of follow-up on audit results (The examiner should recommend that management monitor the status of follow-up on the examiner's recommendations (Lee & Raschke, 2016). Continued attention to material audit findings as well as recommendations can help the examiner to provide assurance that the benefits of the audit are realized).

**c. Framework**



**Figure 1. framework**

**d. Hypothesis**

1. The Covid-19 epidemic at BPJS Ketenagakerjaan has a beneficial impact on the audit quality when the audit universe is determined.
2. The type of audit has a beneficial impact on audit quality at the BPJS Ketenagakerjaan during the Covid-19 epidemic.
3. The type of risk has a positive effect on audit quality during the Covid-19 pandemic at BPJS Ketenagakerjaan.
4. The nature of audit data has a positive effect on audit quality during the Covid-19 pandemic at BPJS Ketenagakerjaan.
5. The position of the three lines of defense has a positive effect on audit quality during the Covid-19 pandemic at the BPJS Ketenagakerjaan.

**Methodology****a. Population and Sample**

This study uses population as data. According to Gantz, (2014) if the research object is less than 100 it is better to take all so that the research is population research, then if the number of subjects is large it can be taken between 10% - 15% or 20% - 25% or more ". The sample taken was all auditors of the BPJS Ketenagakerjaan Internal Supervisory Unit totaling 73 auditors who were population samples.

**b. Data Analysis Technique**

Multiple linear regression is the test that was employed in this study to ascertain the impact of the independent variable on the dependent variable. Multiple linear regression was employed in this investigation, and it works as follows:

$$Y = a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3 + b_4X_4 + b_5X_5$$

Y = Audit quality

X<sub>1</sub> = Determination of audit universe

X<sub>2</sub> = Type of audit

X<sub>3</sub> = Type of risk

X<sub>4</sub> = Nature of audit data

X<sub>5</sub> = Three lines of defense position

A = Intercept (constant)

b<sub>1</sub>, b<sub>2</sub> = Regression coefficient

**Result And Discussion****a. Description of each Variable**

In this research, the authors were successful in giving out questionnaires and getting them back from a total of 73 respondents. Following the descriptive processing of the respondents' responses, the following results are presented in tabular form:

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Table 2. Description Statistic

	<b>N</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
Audit Quality	73	45	70	61,99	6,955
Audit universe determination	73	27	39	33,78	3,384
Audit type	73	9	19	15,71	2,736
Risk type	73	14	28	23,42	3,547
Type audit data	73	16	28	21,81	2,623
Three Lines of defense position	73	19	33	26,11	3,588
Valid N	73				

Source: Data Processing Results, 2022

The maximum and minimum values for each variable, as well as the average and standard deviation based on the responses of 73 respondents, are briefly displayed in the table above.

#### **b. Validity Test**

Validity is the precision or accuracy of an instrument in measuring what it wants to measure. In this study, the authors used Pearson's Bivariate correlation (Pearson's Product Moment) to test validity.

r table is sought at a significance of 0.05 with a 2-sided test and the amount of data  $N = 73$ , then obtained r table of 0.230. Furthermore, the r table is compared with the r count of each variable. The results of the validity test of the question items for all variables are known that r count values are not below the r table so it is concluded that all instruments are valid.

#### **c. Reliability Test**

The reliability test is used to evaluate the measuring instrument's consistency, reliability, and capacity to maintain consistency through multiple measurements. Cronbach's Alpha approach is used by the author for dependability testing.

Based on the information from the reliability test findings, it can be inferred that all of the questions regarding the variables are reliable because the average Cronbach's Alpha value is above 0,6.

#### **d. Multiple Linear Resression Analysis**

The following table shows the results of data processing for the multiple linear regression analysis that was done to test the impact of Risk-Based Internal Auditing variables consisting of five indicators, namely: Determination of the audit universe (X1), Type of audit (X2), Type of risk (X3), Nature of audit data (X4), and Three Lines of Defense position (X5) on audit quality (Y):

Table 3. Multiple Linear Regression Test Results

<b>Model</b>	<b>Unstandardized Coefficients</b>		<b>Standardized Coefficients</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>sig</b>
	<b>B</b>	<b>Std. Error</b>	<b>Beta</b>		

4<sup>st</sup> Edition, January, 24

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(Constant)	2,032	3,509		0,579	0,564
Audit Universe Determination	0,435	0,190	0,212	2,291	0,025
Audit type	0,822	0,227	0,323	3,624	0,001
Risk type	0,398	0,192	0,203	2,077	0,042
Type audit data	0,558	0,216	0,210	2,578	0,012
Three Lines of defense position	0,415	0,152	0,214	2,727	0,008

Source: Data Processed, 2022

The regression test results in the table above can be formulated as follows:

$$Y = a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3 + b_4X_4 + b_5X_5$$

$$Y = 2,032 + 0,435X_1 + 0,822X_2 + 0,398X_3 + 0,558X_4 + 0,415X_5$$

1.  $a = 2.032$  means that if  $X_1$  (determination of the audit universe),  $X_2$  (type of audit),  $X_3$  (type of risk),  $X_4$  (nature of audit data) and  $X_5$  (position of three lines of defense) value is 0, then  $Y$  (audit quality) value is 2.032.
2. The determination of the audit universe variable has a regression coefficient of 0.435, which means that if the value of  $X_1$  (determination of the audit universe) increases by 1 unit,  $Y$  (audit quality), assuming other independent variables remain constant, will increase by 0.435 units.
3. Assuming that the other independent variables remain constant, the regression coefficient of the  $X_2$  variable (type of audit) is 0.822, which means that if the value of  $X_2$  (type of audit) increases by 1 unit, the audit quality will improve by 0.822.
4. Assuming all independent variables remain constant, the regression coefficient for variable  $X_3$  (type of risk) is 0.398, which means that if the value of  $X_3$  (type of risk) increases by 1 unit,  $Y$  (audit quality) will increase by 0.398 units.
5. The audit quality will increase by 0.558 units if the value of variable  $X_4$  (nature of audit data) increases by 1 unit, provided other independent variables remain constant. This is because the regression coefficient for variable  $X_4$  (nature of audit data) is 0.558.
6. The position of the three lines of defense variable,  $X_5$ , has a regression coefficient of 0.415, which means that, assuming all independent variables remain constant, if the value of  $X_5$  (position of the three lines of defense) increases by 1 unit, the audit quality will increase by 0.415 units.

#### e. Coefficient of Determination

Tabel 4. Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0,915a	0,838	0,825	2,905

a. Predictors: (Constant), Posisi *Three Lines of defense*, Type Audit, Type Audit Data, Three Lines of defense, Risk Type

Source: Data Processed, 2022

The rules for interpreting the correlation coefficient, according to Sugiyono (2017), are as follows:

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0,00 – 0,199 = Very Low  
0,20 – 0,399 = Low  
0,40 – 0,559 = Medium  
0,60 – 0,799 = High  
0,80 – 1,000 = Very High

From the results of data processing (output), the correlation coefficient (R) value is 0.915, it can be concluded that there is a relationship that falls into the strong category between risk based internal audit with indicators of determining the audit universe, type of audit, type of risk, nature of audit data, and the position of the three lines of defense on audit quality in the BPJS Ketenagakerjaan Internal Supervisory Unit during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Then seen from the coefficient of determination (R<sup>2</sup>) value of 0.838 or 83.8%, it can be said that the percentage contribution of the influence of the independent variable risk-based internal audit with indicators of determining the audit universe, type of audit, type of risk, nature of audit data, and the position of the three lines of defense on the dependent variable (audit quality) is 83.8% while the remaining 16.2% is influenced or explained by other factors not included in this model.

#### *f. Discussion*

The impact of risk-based internal auditing on audit quality using indicators for defining the audit universe

The selection of the audit universe partially influences the BPJS Ketenagakerjaan Internal Supervisory Unit's audit quality in a good and significant way during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Following that, based on the responses of the respondents, it needs to be improved, especially for the statement with the lowest score, i.e., statement No. 9 on the determination of the audit universe should be backed by a thorough and sufficient data analytics process. This can be enhanced/improved by further enhancing audit planning in order to effectively carry out the data analytics process.

The effect of Risk Based Internal Audit with risk type indicators on audit quality

Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that, during the Covid-19 Pandemic, the audit quality at the BPJS Ketenagakerjaan Internal Supervisory Unit was positively and significantly impacted by the type of risk. The statement that received the lowest score, statement No. 3, about reports disclosing issues that are difficulties that cannot be remedied until the end of the audit during the Covid-19 epidemic, has to be improved as a result of the respondents' responses. This can be enhanced/improved by giving internal auditors guidance and inspiration to have the confidence to report issues they discover that won't be fixed until the audit is finished during the Covid-19 epidemic.

The impact of risk-based internal auditing on audit quality along with indicators of the audit data's nature

Additionally, it has been demonstrated that the audit quality at the BPJS Ketenagakerjaan Internal Supervisory Unit during the Covid-19 Pandemic is positively and significantly impacted by the nature of the audit data. The statement that received the lowest score, statement No. 2, about audit methods being sufficient to acquire sufficient and acceptable evidence, needs to be revised based on the respondents' responses. This can be addressed by offering training or arming internal auditors with technology-use abilities so that the data collection procedure can be more expedient and precise.

The effect of Risk Based Internal Audit with the Three Lines of Defense position indicator on audit quality

It has also been demonstrated in part that the three lines of defense position variable have a favorable and considerable impact on audit quality in the BPJS Ketenagakerjaan Internal Supervisory Unit during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Then, based on the responses of the respondents, it has to be improved, especially in relation to the claim that received the lowest score, namely, claim No. 5 about second lines of defense not being able to provide really independent analysis to manage risk management and internal control. By giving auditors guidance and training so they may continue to be independent in their work, this can be improved.

## Conclusions and Recommendation

### a. Conclusion

According to the findings of the research, it is possible to draw the following conclusions:

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, the use of risk-based internal audit with indicators of identifying the audit universe, audit type, audit risk, nature of audit data, and position of the three lines of defense has a favorable and significant impact on audit quality in the BPJS Ketenagakerjaan Internal Supervisory Unit.

### b. Implications

1. According to the finding that risk-based internal audit with indicators of determining the audit universe has a positive and significant effect on audit quality, there will be an increase in audit quality if the determination of the audit universe increases. The statement that received the lowest score, i.e., the assertion that the selection of the audit universe should be supported by a thorough and sufficient data analytics process, needs to be improved, as can be observed from the respondents' responses. This can be improved by enhancing audit planning further in order to execute the data analytics process more effectively.
2. Based on the conclusion that risk-based internal audit with an indicator of the type of audit has a positive and significant effect on audit quality, meaning that if the type of audit increases, there will also be an increase in audit quality. Then judging from the respondents' answers, it needs to be improved, especially for the statement that has the lowest score, namely; a statement about evaluating the auditor's ability to identify and manage risks associated with the spread of Covid-19 adequately and effectively. This can be improved/increased by increasing optimal training and debriefing to auditors.
3. Based on the conclusion that risk-based internal audit with risk-type indicators has a positive and significant effect on audit quality, meaning that if efforts to deal with audit risks increase, there will also be an increase in audit quality. Then judging from the respondents' answers, it needs to be improved, especially against the statement that has the lowest score, namely; statements about reports disclosing matters that are problems that cannot be resolved until the end of the audit during the Covid-19 pandemic. This can be improved/increased by providing direction and motivation to internal auditors to have the courage to submit reports on the findings of problems that cannot be resolved until the end of the audit during the Covid-19 pandemic.
4. Based on the conclusion that risk-based internal audit with indicators of the nature of audit data has a positive and significant effect on audit quality, meaning that if the nature of audit data is getting better or increasing, there will also be an increase in audit quality. Then judging from the respondents' answers, it needs to be improved, especially for the statement that has the lowest score, namely; a statement about audit procedures sufficient to obtain sufficient and appropriate evidence. This can be improved/improved by providing training or equipping internal auditors with skills in using technology so that the data collection process can be faster and more accurate.
5. Based on the conclusion that risk-based internal audit with indicators of the position of the three lines of defense has a positive and significant effect on audit quality, meaning that if the position of the three lines of defense is getting better or increasing, there will also be an increase in audit quality. Then seen from the respondents' answers, it needs to be improved, especially against the statement that has the lowest score, namely; statements about second lines of defense cannot offer truly independent analysis to manage risk management and internal control. This can be improved/improved by providing training and direction to auditors to remain independent in this position.
6. The BPJS Ketenagakerjaan Internal Supervisory Unit must focus on gathering sufficient and relevant audit evidence in order to support audit assignments in order to take concrete steps to preserve audit quality. Future auditors will need to be able to operate remotely, employ big data analytics, and data mining, as well as making the most of technology.
7. Efforts that can be made to overcome the impact of Covid 19 on audit quality are by making changes to audit regulations, and improving the quality of auditor human resources through training including artificial intelligence training, network security, and data function development. "Structuring the pattern

- of work mechanisms such as clarity of workflow in accordance with the main tasks and functions by providing training in stages". (Barusman, Tina Miniawati, (2020).
8. From a policy standpoint, additional research can examine how and why the Covid-19 epidemic may impair audit quality.

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