THE IMPACT OF THE BLOCKADE AND POLITICS ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE IN PALESTINE

Fitria Risdayani[1], Karina Mancanagara[2], Nurul Anisa[3]
[1,2,3] LSPR Institute of Communication & Business, Indonesia
Email: 23072180002@lspr.edu, 23072180004@lspr.edu, 2307218008@lspr.edu

ABSTRACT
The political conflict between Israel and Palestine has created a difficult situation for the Palestinian population, with a blockade imposed by Israel and persistent political tensions. The impact of the blockade and politics on the health and social well-being of the Palestinian population requires in-depth research to fully understand its implications. This research aims to analyze the impact of the blockade and politics on physical and mental health, access to health services, and the social welfare of Palestinian society. This research uses the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method to collect and analyze data from various related literature sources. Data was analyzed comprehensively to understand the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social well-being in Palestine. The results show that the blockade imposed by Israel has caused a severe health crisis, with increased risks of infectious diseases, shortages of medical equipment, and limited access to health services. In addition, political conflict has also caused an increase in mental disorders among the Palestinian population, as well as disturbing social instability.

KEYWORDS	Blockade, Political Conflict, Health, Social Welfare

INTRODUCTION

Health is an overall condition that includes the optimal physical, mental, and social well-being of an individual or population. It not only refers to the absence of disease or disability, but also includes the presence of positive factors such as physical fitness, mental balance, and healthy social interactions (Martha, 2023). Health is influenced by various factors, including genetics, environment, lifestyle, and access to health services and community resources. Health also involves the concept of balance and harmony between the body, mind and environment (Mardiyah & Nurwati, 2020). This includes the ability to adapt and survive the

physical, emotional, and social stresses of everyday life. In a healthy society, individuals have equal access to quality health services, an environment that supports healthy lifestyles, and social support that promotes mental and emotional well-being. Thus, health is not only an end in itself, but also the foundation for a productive and quality life for individuals and society as a whole (Wardania & Utomo, 2022).

Social welfare is a complex and multidimensional concept that refers to the general condition of well-being and quality of life experienced by individuals, families and society as a whole (Rasyid, 2022). The definition of social welfare is not limited to material or economic aspects alone, but also includes psychological, physical, cultural and social aspects. This includes physical and mental health, economic security, social justice, political participation, healthy

interpersonal relationships, and access to resources and opportunities. Well-being is often associated with the level of satisfaction and happiness felt by individuals and groups in various aspects of their lives. This includes satisfaction with work, positive interpersonal relationships, and the freedom and ability to meet basic needs such as food, housing, and education. Social well-being also concerns feelings of solidarity and social cohesion in society, where individuals feel connected, valued and supported by their community (Abdullah & Fahirdan, 2023).

Social welfare also includes the concept of social inclusion, namely ensuring that all individuals have equal access to the opportunities and resources necessary for a decent and dignified life (Romadhony et al., 2024). This includes fighting discrimination, social inequality, and inequality in access to public services, employment, and education. Social welfare is closely related to the concept of social justice, where all individuals have the same right to benefit from the social and economic resources that exist in society. In a broader view, social welfare does not only focus on certain individuals or groups, but also considers the interests and welfare of future generations as well as ecological and environmental balance. This includes efforts to ensure long-term economic, environmental and social sustainability, so that society can continue to develop and maintain a high quality of life for all its members. Thus, social welfare reflects the main goal of inclusive and equitable sustainable development.

Blockade is a political and military strategy used by one party to block or limit access to another country's territory, ports, or borders (Nugraha & Maura, 2023). Usually, blockades are carried out by placing military forces or other resources around the targeted area, thereby preventing the entry and exit of goods, people or other resources. Blockades can be carried out in the context of armed conflict between countries or in situations of internal conflict within a country. In the context of international politics, blockades are often used as a tool of pressure or punishment against countries or governments that are deemed to be violating international norms or threatening regional security. For example, a blockade can be imposed on countries that carry out military aggression against other countries or that violate peace treaties or international agreements. Blockades can also be implemented as a form of economic sanctions against countries that do not comply with human rights standards or that engage in serious violations of international law (Kaslam, 2024).

On the other hand in the context of internal conflict, blockades are often used by governments or armed groups in power to isolate regions that are rebelling or reject central authority. This aims to reduce logistical, economic and political support for the rebel party, as well as to hinder the movement of troops or weapons supplies (Vitry et al., 2023). Blockades in this context often cause suffering and humanitarian hardship for isolated populations, as access to food, water, medicine and other basic services becomes limited or non-existent. The impact of blockades can be devastating for affected populations, by hampering access to essential resources, increasing prices of daily necessities, and worsening health conditions and social well-being. In many cases, blockades are considered a violation of human rights, especially basic rights such as the right to food, clean water, medical care, and freedom of movement. Therefore, the enforcement or enforcement of blockades is often a fierce subject in international politics and is often the subject of controversy in conflict resolution efforts (Gabrilla, 2020).

Politics are processes and practices related to the formation and implementation of policies, decision making, and the distribution and use of power in a society or country. Broadly, politics includes interactions between individuals, groups, and institutions in determining common goals, resolving conflicts, and organizing ways of living together in a structured

system. It covers a wide range of aspects, from electoral processes and lawmaking, to diplomatic negotiations between countries and advocacy actions by civil society groups (Rifqah et al., 2024). Politics also includes the formation of public opinion, the building of political identity, and social mobility which is related to the distribution of power and resources in society. This involves the formation of political coalitions, ideological debates, as well as the struggle to gain support and legitimacy from society. Politics is also an arena for competing interests between various groups and individuals, where compromise, negotiation, or conflict often occurs in order to achieve desired political goals. Thus, politics is one of the fundamental aspects of human life that influences almost every aspect of social life (Jamaluddin & Habibillah, 2023).

Palestine is a region that has long been the center of political and social conflict in the Middle East. One important aspect of this conflict was the blockade imposed on the region. The blockade not only affected Palestinian economic and political life, but also had a serious impact on the health and social well-being of its population (Febi et al., 2024). In this presentation, we will explore the impact that the blockade and politics have had on health and social welfare in Palestine. Palestine has long been the center of complex political and social conflict. This conflict involves various actors, including the Israeli government, Palestinian organizations such as Hamas and Fatah, as well as other regional and international powers. The roots of the conflict center on conflicting territorial claims between Israel and Palestine, with debates over sovereignty, people's rights, and the status of Jerusalem (Taunaumang et al., 2023).

In the history of conflict between Israel and Palestine a series of important events have occurred, including the Arab-Israeli war of 1948, the Six Day war of 1967, and the Yom Kippur war of 1973, all of which increased tensions between the two sides. This conflict also involves controversy regarding Israeli settlements in

the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which are considered a violation of international law by many countries and international organizations. 2023 was recorded as the year with the highest level of violence in the last 15 years in the West Bank, according to UN data reported by Reuters (Juntami, 2023). The West Bank region, which has an area of around 5,655 square kilometers, has played an important role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as well as political dynamics in the Arab-Muslim region over the last 75 years. The history of the occupation of the West Bank and its relevance in the context of the conflict between Israel and Palestine has profound implications for understanding the complexity of the conflict (Simanjorang et al., 2023). The impact of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is not only felt in the region, but also spread throughout the world, including Indonesia. As a country with the largest Muslim population in the world, Indonesia has a strong interest and emotional involvement in this conflict. Solidarity with the Palestinian people has become an issue of concern in Indonesian foreign policy, with the government and civil society often voicing their support for Palestine (Juntami, 2023).
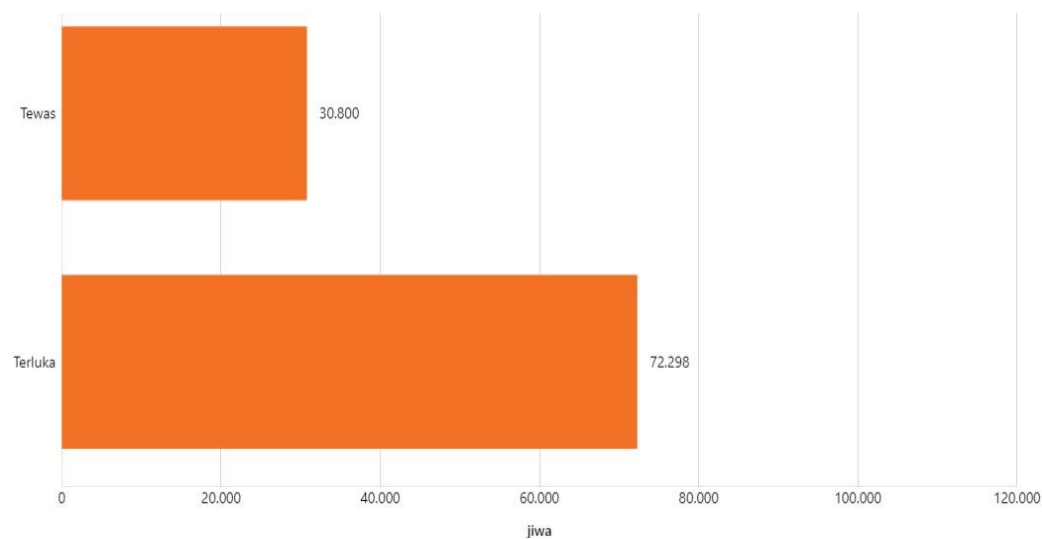

Figure 1. Map of Palestine

The long conflict between Israel and Palestine is not only triggered by territorial claims but is also heavily influenced by political factors. The division of the territory into separate political entities, with the Palestinian Authority administering the West Bank and Hamas controlling Gaza, together with Israel under its own rule, has added complexity to the conflict. Political polarization between Fatah and Hamas has increased since Hamas' parliamentary victory in 2006, leading to internal conflict in Palestine. Efforts to form a unified government have been thwarted by armed conflict and political tensions, resulting in Palestinian territorial and political fragmentation since 2007 (Dewantara et al., 2023). Additionally, the controversial issue of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem exacerbates the conflict, as these settlements are widely considered illegal under international law and a major obstacle to peace efforts. The presence of these settlements exacerbates tensions between the Palestinian population and Israeli settlers, further hampering prospects for peace.

One of the prominent aspects of the conflict is the blockade imposed by Israel on the Palestinian territories. This blockade has hampered economic

movement, trade and access to vital resources such as water and energy. This has created a high dependency on international aid and worsened social welfare conditions in Palestine. The health system in Palestine has suffered serious impacts due to the blockade and prolonged conflict. Access to basic health services has become difficult due to damaged infrastructure, limited resources, and logistical obstacles caused by the blockade. Infectious diseases, malnutrition, and other health disorders have become increasing problems among the Palestinian population (Candra, 2024).

The impact of the conflict and blockade also pervades various aspects of social welfare in Palestine. Movement restrictions, lack of economic resources, and psychological trauma resulting from the conflict have created an environment that is not conducive to the social development, education, and well-being of Palestinian society (Martha, 2023). In the context of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, understanding the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social well-being in Palestine is critical. Many international organizations and humanitarian agencies have voiced their concern over the conditions faced by the Palestinian population, emphasizing the need for a sustainable political solution to end the ongoing suffering.

Source : https://databoks.katadata.co.id/
Figure 1. Number of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip who were victims of Israeli attacks (7 October 2023 – 7 March 2024)

According to a report compiled by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), during the period from 7 October 2023 to 7 March 2024, the number of fatalities among residents of the Gaza Strip due to Israeli attacks has reached an alarming figure, reaching 30,800 people, while the number of injured reached 72,298 people. These figures reflect the tragic impact of the long-running conflict ravaging the region, with civilians being the most vulnerable victims of ongoing violence. In the past day alone, 83 Palestinians have lost their lives, while 142 others were injured. The OCHA report highlights that Israel continues to launch air strikes and intensive ground military operations

in large parts of the Gaza Strip, causing loss of life among civilians, forcing mass displacement, and causing the destruction of homes and infrastructure. This situation emphasizes that the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is increasingly worrying and requires an immediate response from the international community to stop the spiral of violence and provide the necessary assistance to those directly affected (Source : https://databoks.katadata.co.id/).

The impact of the conflict between Palestine and Israel does not only have a local impact in the region, but also has an impact that spreads throughout the world. Locally, this conflict has caused great suffering for Palestinians, including loss of life, injuries, displacement, and damage to infrastructure. According to data from the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), around 5.7 million Palestinians have become refugees, both inside and outside Palestine, as a direct impact of this conflict. Reports from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Gaza indicate that more than 13,000 people have lost their lives and nearly 1.7 million people have been displaced since the outbreak of war on October 7, 2023 in Gaza, Palestine. UNRWA also noted that 75 percent of the fatalities were children, women and the elderly (Juntami, 2023). Apart from local impacts, this conflict also has global impacts, especially in the context of geopolitics and international security. The conflict between Palestine and Israel has become a source of tension in the Middle East, triggering conflicts between Arab countries and Israel, and becoming a driver of radicalization and extremism in various parts of the world. Apart from that, the economic impact is also significant, both directly and indirectly, because it disrupts trade, investment and development in the region. By understanding the impacts that the blockade and politics have had on health and social welfare in Palestine, it is hoped that this can encourage greater international efforts to address the root causes of the conflict and improve the living conditions of the Palestinian population.

Literature Review
Definition of Blockade and Politics
In the context of political conflict, blockades and politics have very important implications for human life, especially in terms of health and social welfare. To understand these two concepts thoroughly, experts have conducted in-depth research and provided various definitions. In this discussion, we will explore definitions from various points of view, ranging from politics, international law, public health, to economics, to illustrate the complexity of the impact of the blockade and politics. According to experts, a blockade is an action taken by one party to limit or stop the flow of resources or communications to a particular region or entity. (Gengler, 2020) describes blockades as political tools used to achieve certain goals, such as suppressing opposing parties or forcing them to comply with certain demands. He emphasized that blockades often occur in the context of armed conflict between countries or in situations of internal conflict.

(Yap et al., 2023) states that a blockade can also be considered an act that violates international law if it is carried out without a legitimate reason or if it causes disproportionate suffering to the civilian population. According to him, international legal conventions, such as the Geneva Conventions, have provisions

prohibiting the use of blockades as a tool to repress or punish civilian populations. Politics meanwhile has various definitions from various perspectives. (Usman, 2020) defines politics as a process of interaction between individuals and groups in determining common goals, making decisions, and organizing ways of living together in a structured society. According to him, politics includes everything related to power, authority and influence in a community.

(Swan, 2021) describes politics as a process involving the distribution of power, resources, and values in society. He highlighted the importance of competition and conflict in politics as mechanisms for achieving a balance of interests and social justice. According to him, politics does not only occur at the government level, but also in everyday interactions between individuals and groups in society. The impacts of blockades can be far-reaching and varied, depending on the context. (Paudel, 2022) describes the economic impact of the blockade as a decline in trade, investment, and economic growth. He stressed that externally imposed blockades could hamper access to global markets and economic resources, which in turn could cause significant economic setbacks for affected regions.

(Hussein & Lambert, 2020) highlighted the impact of the blockade on people's health and welfare. According to him, the blockade could hinder access to health services, medicines and necessary medical care, which in turn could lead to an increase in preventable deaths and diseases. In addition, he emphasized that the blockade can also cause psychological and social instability, such as stress, anxiety and depression, resulting from the uncertainty and insecurity caused by the difficult political situation. In a political context, the impact of political actions can include policy changes, power dynamics, and political stability. (Bosworth & Chua, 2023) describes political impact as changes in the structure of power and influence in a society. According to him, political actions can influence the distribution of power between groups in society, which in turn can influence social justice and general welfare. (Gengler, 2020) highlights the political impact of political conflicts, including political polarization, social tensions, and changes in political regimes. He emphasized that political conflict can cause divisions in society and threaten political stability, which in turn can disrupt the process of democratization and sustainable political development.

Definition of Health

Health is a very important concept in human life. The definition of health has been the subject of complex and varied discussion over time and from various scientific and philosophical perspectives. In this discussion, we will explore definitions of health from various points of view, including medical, public health, and philosophical perspectives, and identify how understandings of health have evolved along with developments in knowledge and social values. In a medical perspective, health is often defined as an overall state that includes the optimal physical, mental, and social well-being of an individual. This definition was first expressed in the Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948, which defined health as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not simply the absence of disease or disability." This definition

emphasizes that health is not just about the absence of disease, but also about the presence of positive factors such as physical fitness, mental balance, and healthy social interactions (Konstantelos et al., 2023).

Health is often defined in the context of a population or society as a whole. According to (Braveman et al., 2022) a public health expert, health is "the optimal state of individuals and groups, enabling them to lead productive and meaningful lives." This definition emphasizes the importance of environmental, social, and economic factors in determining the health of a population. Furthermore, public health often broadens the scope of the definition of health to include aspects such as access to health services, equity in health, and social justice. In a philosophical perspective, health is often associated with the concept of a meaningful life and a good quality of life. According to (Kelly et al., 2023) a health philosopher, health is "a condition that allows a person to feel physically fit, emotionally satisfied, and have meaningful relationships with other people and the surrounding environment." This definition highlights the connection between health and broader quality of life, as well as the importance of aspects such as happiness, satisfaction and meaning in determining a person's health.

Along with the development of knowledge and changes in social values, the definition of health has undergone significant evolution over time. Initially, health was often thought of as the absence of disease or disability. However, understanding of health has evolved to encompass broader aspects of physical, mental, and social well-being. More modern definitions of health emphasize the importance of environmental, social, and economic factors in determining the health of individuals and populations (O'Rourke et al., 2020). The implications of this evolution in the definition of health are very important in the context of health policy development and health service provision. By understanding that health is not just about the absence of disease, but also about physical, mental, and social well-being, governments and health institutions can develop more holistic strategies to improve the overall health of society. This can include efforts to increase access to health services, improve the physical and social environment, and address inequalities in health.

In conclusion, the definition of health is a complex and varied concept, depending on the perspective and values used. From a medical perspective, health is an overall state that includes physical, mental, and social well-being. In public health, health is often viewed in the context of a population or society as a whole. In a philosophical perspective, health is associated with a meaningful life and a good quality of life. The evolution of definitions of health has expanded the understanding of health to encompass broader aspects of physical, mental, and social well-being. The implication of this evolution is the importance of developing holistic strategies to improve the health of society as a whole.

Social Welfare

Social welfare is a complex concept involving physical, mental, economic and social aspects of human life. The definition of social welfare has been the subject of extensive debate among experts in various disciplines, including sociology, economics, and public health. In this discussion, we will explore various definitions of social welfare from various points of view, as well as the

implications and challenges in understanding this concept as a whole. Social welfare is often defined as the overall state of an individual or society that includes a decent life, social justice, and happiness. According to (Fisher et al., 2020) social welfare is "a state in which an individual or society has access to sufficient resources, including adequate income, education, health care, and opportunities to participate in social and political life." This definition emphasizes the importance of equality, justice and social inclusion in achieving sustainable prosperity.

Social welfare is often linked to the ability of individuals or communities to meet their basic needs and enjoy a decent standard of living. According to (Berg-Weger & Morley, 2020) an economist, social welfare can be measured by indicators such as per capita income, employment levels, and access to public services. This definition highlights the relationship between economic prosperity and social welfare, as well as the importance of inclusive and sustainable economic policies in achieving equitable prosperity. In public health, social welfare is often associated with factors that influence the physical and mental health and well-being of society as a whole. According to (Banks et al., 2020) social well-being includes aspects such as access to health services, a healthy physical environment, and positive social relationships. This definition emphasizes the importance of social, environmental and behavioral factors in determining community welfare.

Understanding social welfare has broad implications for the development of social policies and interventions. One of the main challenges in understanding social welfare is the complexity and multidimensionality of this concept. Social welfare does not only involve economic aspects, but also interrelated social, physical and mental aspects. Therefore, a holistic and integrated approach is needed in understanding and measuring social welfare. Apart from that, differences in views and values in society can also influence understanding of social welfare (Reich, 2020). The concept of social welfare can be viewed differently by individuals, groups, or institutions, depending on the values, interests, and perspectives they have. This can give rise to debate and conflict in determining priorities and strategies in achieving sustainable and equitable social welfare.

In conclusion, social welfare is a complex and varied concept, depending on the perspective and values used. From a sociological perspective, social welfare is the overall state of an individual or society that includes social justice, equality, and happiness. In economics, social welfare is associated with the ability of individuals or societies to meet their basic needs and enjoy a decent standard of living. In public health, social well-being involves aspects such as access to health services, a healthy physical environment, and positive social relationships. Implications and challenges in understanding social welfare include the complexity and multidimensionality of this concept, as well as differences in views and values in society. Therefore, a holistic and integrated approach is needed in understanding and measuring social welfare.

Social Welfare Theory

To discuss social welfare theory relevant to the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social welfare in Palestine, we can explore the concept of

"Relative Social Welfare" proposed by British sociologists, Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett, in their famous book, "The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone", published in 2009. This theory presents the argument that economic inequality in a society has a significant negative impact on social well-being, including physical and mental health, as well as social life (Pybus et al., 2022). According to Wilkinson and Pickett, high economic inequality in a society can create social tension, mental instability, and a lack of trust between individuals (Pybus et al., 2021). They show that in more economically unequal societies, levels of social trust are lower, and social problems such as crime, addiction, and mental disorders are higher. This concept of relative social welfare highlights that it is not only the absolute level of wealth that is important for a society's well-being, but also how evenly that wealth is distributed among the members of society.

In the Palestinian context where political conflict and blockade have created economic instability and high social inequality, relative social welfare theory has significant relevance. The blockade imposed by Israel on the Palestinian territories, particularly the Gaza Strip, has created difficult economic conditions, with limited access to resources, limited health services, and limited economic opportunities (Roberts et al., 2022). The impact of high economic inequality, as outlined in Wilkinson and Pickett's theory, can be seen in various indicators of health and social well-being in Palestine. Data shows that levels of stress, anxiety and depression among the Palestinian population, especially in Gaza, are very high due to difficult economic conditions and political uncertainty. Limited access to health services and medicines has also led to increased rates of preventable death and disease among the Palestinian population. Additionally, high unemployment rates and a lack of economic opportunities have created further social tensions and political instability in the region (De Schutter et al., 2023).

In an analysis of the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social well-being in Palestine, the theory of relative social well-being by Wilkinson and Pickett provides a powerful framework for understanding the relationship between economic inequality, social tensions, and health and social well-being problems (Wilkinson & Pickett, 2022). Further research and policy action based on this understanding can help address the challenges faced by the Palestinian population and promote more equitable and sustainable social prosperity in the region.
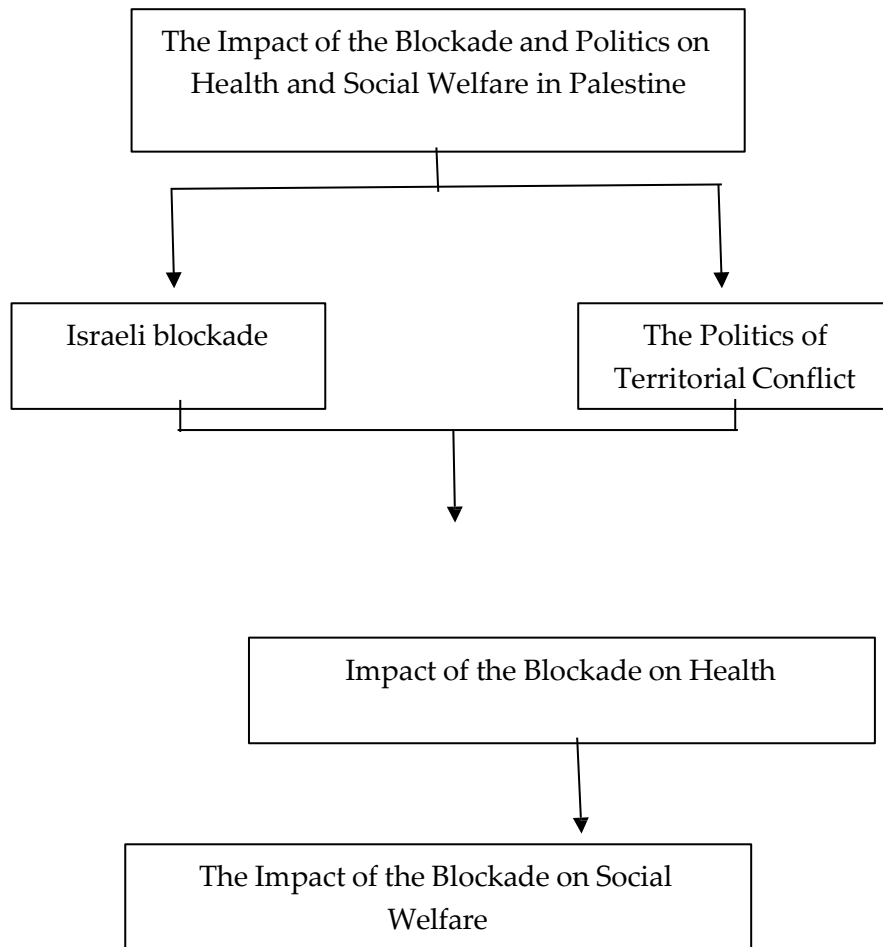
Conceptual Framework

Figure 3. conceptual framework

Based on the conceptual framework image above, it can be concluded that the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social welfare in Palestine is the result of a complex interaction between these factors. The blockade imposed by Israel creates major obstacles to access to health services and causes difficult economic conditions in Palestine. This has a direct impact on the physical and mental health and social well-being of the Palestinian population. On the other hand, political territorial conflict also contributes significantly to social tensions and decreased political stability, which also has a negative impact on health and social welfare in the region. The interaction between the blockade and the politics of conflict creates a difficult environment for the Palestinian population, with limited access to health services, high unemployment rates, and rising social tensions. The impacts of these two factors mutually reinforce each other, creating a complex and difficult environment for efforts to improve health and social well-being in Palestine. Therefore, a holistic and coordinated solution is needed to address this challenge, involving efforts to overcome the blockade, improve economic conditions, and promote peace and political stability in the region.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used in research regarding the impact of blockade and politics on health and social welfare in Palestine is Systematic Literature Review (SLR). This method is a systematic approach in collecting, evaluating, and synthesizing relevant evidence from various scientific studies that have been carried out previously. In the context of this research,

SLR is an appropriate approach because it allows for a comprehensive review of the existing literature on the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social well-being in Palestine. By using the SLR method, researchers can carry out systematic and structured literature searches using predetermined inclusion criteria (Sugiyono, 2017). This made it possible to ensure that all relevant and high-quality studies could be included in the analysis. In addition, SLR also makes it possible to compile a comprehensive synthesis of the findings from these various studies, thereby providing an in-depth understanding of the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social welfare in Palestine. Thus, the use of the SLR method in this research will provide a strong basis for drawing up relevant conclusions and recommendations in overcoming the challenges faced by the Palestinian population in the context of ongoing conflict.

In research on the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social welfare in Palestine, the data collection techniques used can involve several methods, such as document search and analysis, interviews, and field observations. In the initial stage, a document search was carried out to collect various sources of relevant information, such as scientific journals, government reports and related news articles. This technique helps to gain a comprehensive understanding of the research topic and creates a solid foundation for subsequent analysis. After the data was collected, the analysis technique used in this research was qualitative analysis using NVivo software (Sugiyono, 2018). NVivo is a useful tool in analyzing qualitative data, such as interview transcripts, text documents, and field notes. By using NVivo, researchers can classify, search and thematic analysis of data more efficiently. This tool allows researchers to identify patterns, themes, and relationships between collected data, and present findings systematically. With a combination of diverse data collection techniques and the use of analytical tools such as NVivo, this research can produce a deep understanding of the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social well-being in Palestine. It is hoped that this careful and structured analysis will provide valuable insights for efforts to understand and overcome the challenges faced by Palestinian society in the context of ongoing conflict.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of research on the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social welfare in Palestine show a very complex and worrying picture. This research highlights that the blockade policy implemented by Israel against the Palestinian territories, especially in the Gaza Strip, has caused high vulnerability to the health and social welfare of the Palestinian population (Hammad & Tribe,

2020). The blockade limits access to vital resources such as food, clean water, medicine, and health services, significantly affecting the physical and mental health of the population. In addition, the economic uncertainty resulting from the blockade has led to increased unemployment, poverty and social instability which have a negative impact on the social welfare of society.

The results of research conducted by (Marie Bataat, 2022) show that the Israeli blockade has caused a drastic reduction in access to health services in Palestine. Health facilities often lack adequate medical equipment, medicines and medical personnel due to strict import restrictions. As a result, the Palestinian population experiences difficulties in obtaining necessary medical care, especially for chronic conditions and emergencies. High mortality rates and increased morbidity are worrying results of this condition, with many cases of preventable diseases and medical conditions undiagnosed or not treated appropriately. In addition to its direct impact on physical health, the blockade has also had a significant impact on the social well-being of the Palestinian population (Rosenthal, 2021). Restrictions on access to essential resources and services have led to increased social tension, anxiety and depression among the Palestinian population. Difficult economic conditions have also created a socially unstable environment, with rising unemployment and poverty rates fueling greater social inequality among communities. These conditions have affected the social relations and daily lives of the Palestinian population, giving rise to greater uncertainty, insecurity and internal conflict.

Research conducted by (Hammad, 2020) highlights the political role of the territorial conflict between Israel and Palestine in worsening health conditions and social welfare in the region. High political tensions, often fueled by disputes over land and Israel's settlement policies, have led to repeated cycles of violence and disruption to public services in Palestine. This political conflict exacerbates economic uncertainty and social tensions, and creates an environment that is not conducive to recovery and reconciliation efforts. In facing this challenge, joint efforts are needed from various parties, including the Palestinian government, Israel and the international community, to overcome the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social welfare in Palestine. Concrete steps that can be taken include sufficient blockade relief to ensure access to adequate health resources and services, as well as efforts to strengthen health systems and social support networks in the region. In addition, a sustainable political settlement and sustainable peace between Israel and Palestine are also key to building a more stable and prosperous future for the Palestinian population. Thus, this research emphasizes the importance of understanding and addressing the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social well-being in Palestine as an integral part of efforts to achieve peace and justice in the Middle East (El Jabari et al., 2023).

The study of the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social well-being in Palestine has been a major concern in the academic literature, with previous research that has been conducted providing in-depth understanding of this issue. Previous research has identified a number of significant impacts of the Israeli blockade and political tensions on the health and social well-being of the Palestinian population, and outlined various factors that exacerbate the situation.

Analysis of previous research results shows that the blockade has caused high vulnerability to the health of Palestinian people, while territorial political conflicts have created a socially and economically unstable environment.

One of the key findings of previous research is that Israel's blockade of the Palestinian territories, particularly the Gaza Strip, has led to a dramatic decline in access to health services. A study by (Wispelwey & Jamei, 2020) shows that the blockade has limited the import of medical equipment, medicines and other medical materials, as well as affecting the mobility of Palestinian medical personnel and patients. As a result, Gaza residents often have difficulty getting necessary medical care, with preventable deaths and morbidity increasing. Similar findings were also reported by (Mohammed Alkhaldi, 2022) who found that the blockade has caused an increase in maternal and infantile mortality rates in Gaza, as well as increasing the risk of infectious diseases.

Previous research has also highlighted the political impact of the territorial conflict between Israel and Palestine on health and social well-being in the region. The study by (Farhat et al., 2023) show that high political tensions are often fueled by disputes over land and Israeli settlement policies, which worsen the health and social welfare situation in Palestine. This political conflict has created a recurring cycle of violence, disruption to public services, and significant economic losses for the Palestinian population. Further analysis by (Hammoudeh et al., 2020) found that economic uncertainty and social tensions resulting from political conflict have led to increased rates of unemployment, poverty and social inequality among Palestinian society.

Several previous studies have also highlighted the relationship between the blockade, conflict politics, and mental health conditions in Palestine. A study by (Marie & Battat, 2018) found that political tensions and experiences of trauma resulting from the conflict have led to increased rates of mental disorders among the Palestinian population, with the emergence of symptoms such as anxiety, depression and PTSD. The results of this study support other

findings showing that the unstable political situation and experiences of conflict-related trauma have had a significant negative impact on the mental well-being of the Palestinian people (Awatef, 2022).

From the results of previous research, it can be concluded that the Israeli blockade and territorial political conflict with Palestine have a serious impact on the health and social welfare of the Palestinian population. These findings highlight the importance of paying attention to and addressing this issue through various efforts, both at the local and international levels. Concrete steps that can be taken include adequate lifting of the blockade to ensure access to adequate health services, promotion of peace and reconciliation between Israel and Palestine, and strengthening the health system and social support networks in Palestine. Thus, this previous research provides important insights into the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social well-being in Palestine, and provides a strong foundation for recovery and sustainable development efforts in the region.

Discussion

Impact of the Blockade on Health and Social Welfare in Palestine

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has resulted in widespread impacts on the health and social welfare of the Palestinian population, especially as a result of the blockade imposed by Israel on the Palestinian territories, especially the Gaza Strip. In this discussion, we will discuss in detail the impact of the blockade on physical and mental health, access to health services, and its impact on the social welfare of the Palestinian people. One of the most direct impacts of the blockade is on the physical health of the Palestinian population. Restrictions on imports of food, clean water, medicine and medical equipment have caused a severe health crisis in the region (Barhoush & Amon, 2023). Limited access to these vital resources leads to increased risk of malnutrition, infectious disease, and untreated chronic medical conditions. For example, Gaza residents often have difficulty obtaining nutritious food, with a large portion of the population dependent on humanitarian aid. In addition, lack of access to clean water also increases the risk of diseases such as diarrhea and respiratory tract infections.

The blockade has also had a significant impact on the mental health of the Palestinian population. Difficult economic conditions, political uncertainty and experiences of trauma due to conflict have led to an increase in the number of mental disorders such as anxiety, depression and PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). Studies show that rates of mental disorders among Gaza residents are much higher than the global average, with rates of anxiety and depression reaching alarming numbers (Alkhaldi et al., 2020). Apart from that, the blockade also hampers access to adequate health services in Palestine. Health facilities often experience shortages of medical equipment, medicines, and adequate medical personnel due to strict import restrictions. Medical personnel also struggle to obtain the training and equipment needed to provide quality care. As a result, the Palestinian population often

experiences difficulty in obtaining necessary medical care, especially for chronic conditions and emergencies.

The Israeli blockade also has a serious impact on the social welfare of the Palestinian people. The economic uncertainty caused by the blockade has led to increased unemployment, poverty, and social instability that have had a negative impact on people's well-being. Many families struggle to meet their basic needs, such as food, clean water and adequate shelter. It also creates a socially unstable environment, with increasing levels of tension, internal conflict and domestic violence (Hammoudeh et al., 2022).

To overcome the impact of the blockade on health and social welfare in Palestine, concrete steps need to be taken by the Palestinian government, Israel and the international community. First of all, adequate relief from the blockade is necessary to ensure access to adequate health resources and services for the Palestinian population (Leff, 2022). This must be supported by a commitment to promoting peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians, as well as efforts to strengthen the health system and social support networks in Palestine. In conclusion, the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social welfare in Palestine is very significant and disturbing. Restricted access to vital resources and health services has led to high vulnerability to the physical and mental health of

the population, while difficult economic conditions have created a socially unstable environment (Moss & Majadle, 2020). To overcome this problem, concrete steps and cooperation between various parties are needed so that the Palestinian people can obtain adequate access to adequate health and welfare.

The Political Impact of Territorial Conflict on Health and Social Welfare in Palestine

The territorial political conflict between Israel and Palestine has created a difficult situation for the Palestinian population, with widespread impacts on their health and social well-being. In this discussion, we will analyze in depth how the political conflict affects access to health services, physical and mental health conditions, and the social welfare of the Palestinian people (AlKhaldi et al., 2020). The political conflict between Israel and Palestine has created significant obstacles in access to health services for the Palestinian population. Movement restrictions imposed by Israel, including restrictions on access to certain areas and strict control of borders, have made it difficult for Palestinian residents to obtain necessary medical care. Many Palestinian residents, especially in the besieged Gaza region, have difficulty gaining access to adequate health facilities due to the blockade imposed by Israel. In addition, frequent military attacks and violence also hinder efforts to provide effective health services, with many health facilities damaged or even destroyed during the conflict (Ben Saad & Dergaa, 2023).

1. Impact on Physical Health

Political conflict also has a serious impact on the physical health of the Palestinian population. Military attacks and security operations launched by Israel often result in civilian casualties, including deaths and serious injuries. For example, air and artillery strikes often cause damage to infrastructure, including health facilities, which has a direct impact on the availability of health services for the Palestinian population. In addition, restrictions on access to clean water and healthy sanitation have also caused an increase in the number of infectious diseases, such as diarrhea and respiratory infections.

2. Impact on Mental Health

No less important is the impact of political conflict on the mental health of the Palestinian population. Experiences of conflict-related trauma, including loss of family, displacement, and physical or psychological violence, have led to increased rates of mental disorders among the Palestinian population. Many of them experience symptoms such as anxiety, depression and PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), which can have a serious impact on their social well-being. This condition is exacerbated by persistent political uncertainty and a lack of hope for recovery and peace in the region.

3. Impact on Social Welfare

The political conflict between Israel and Palestine also has a serious impact on the social welfare of Palestinian society. The political and economic instability caused by conflict has created an unsafe and

unstable environment for society, with increasing levels of violence, tension and internal conflict. Many families are forced to leave their homes and become refugees, experiencing economic hardship, and facing great mental and emotional stress due to the uncertainty of their future. In addition, social and economic development has been hampered by prolonged political conflict, with many development and humanitarian aid programs disrupted or even halted due to instability and uncertainty.

To overcome the impact of political conflict on health and social welfare in Palestine, concrete steps need to be taken by all parties involved. First of all, peace and reconciliation between Israel and Palestine need to be promoted, with strong diplomatic efforts to achieve a sustainable peace agreement. In addition, humanitarian and development assistance needs to be strengthened to support social and economic recovery and development in the region (Lin et al., 2022). The Palestinian government also needs to take steps to strengthen the health system and social support networks, as well as provide protection and assistance to victims of the conflict, especially the vulnerable such as children, women and the elderly. In conclusion, the political conflict between Israel and Palestine has had a widespread impact on the health and social welfare of the Palestinian population. From this discussion, we can see that political conflict has created significant barriers to access to health services, led to increased physical and mental health risks, and created a socially unstable environment for Palestinian society (Nurul Anisa, Ivone Harjoko, 2023). To overcome this problem, concrete steps and cooperation between various parties are needed so that the Palestinian population can obtain adequate access to adequate health and welfare.

CONCLUSION

From overall the discussion above can be concluded that the impact of the blockade and politics on health and social welfare in Palestine is very serious and disturbing. The blockade imposed by Israel, along with prolonged political conflict, has created difficult conditions for the Palestinian population. Restrictions on access to health services, especially in besieged territories such as the Gaza Strip, have led to a severe health crisis, with increasing rates of preventable illness and death. Additionally, persistent political and economic uncertainty has also led to increased mental disorders and social instability among Palestinian society.

To overcome this problem concrete steps and international cooperation are needed. There needs to be stronger diplomatic pressure to end the blockade and end the political conflict between Israel and Palestine. In addition, humanitarian and development assistance needs to be increased to support social and economic recovery and development in Palestine. The Palestinian government also needs to take steps to strengthen the health system and social support networks, as well as provide protection and assistance to victims of the conflict, especially the vulnerable such as children, women and the elderly. With joint efforts and strong commitment from all parties involved, it is hoped that the health and social welfare

conditions of the Palestinian population will improve and they will be able to live with the dignity and security they deserve.

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