Efforts to Improve Political Participation and Quality of Democracy

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Abstract. This community service activity in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District, Denpasar City is carried out from March to August 2022. The method of implementing this PkM activity starts from exploring the place where the service will be carried out, site mapping surveys, approaches to partners, discussions involving youth groups , the Village Head and his apparatus, the Head of the BPD, the Chair of the LPM, PKK, community leaders, students and the PkM team. This community service found Political participation carried out by novice voters in Suimerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District in the election of mayor and deputy mayor is voting, campaigning, and talking about political issues. The factors that drive political participation from novice voters in the election of mayor and deputy mayor in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District in 2019, are five elements including the presence of political incentives, one's personal characteristics, social characteristics, political situation or environment, and education.

Introduction

Elections and local elections are important points for meeting the interests of civic political aspirations and becoming a channel or channel for voting in a democratic space. Elections have become a political instrument filled with efforts to legitimize the operation of power. In fact, the contestation in the general election is a constitutional contestation for power. Elections as part of procedural democracy are considered as the right choice for a society and country that is very plural or heterogeneous. Elections, including local elections, are a democratic mechanism to circulate and rotate leadership. Quality elections will increase the political legitimacy of the government in the next five years, seen from the support given by citizens and the political community in running the government. However, the low voter participation will give the impression of a lack of legitimacy for the elected regional leaders. The lack of legitimacy is feared to be related to the effectiveness of the administration of his government in the next five years.

Effective governance requires having strong political legitimacy. Strong legitimacy is obtained from the implementation of quality elections or local elections. Therefore, the extent to which the quality of the general election or regional head election will determine the degree of political legitimacy of the government resulting from the election. The philosopher Frans Magnis Suseno (1987) made a kind of benchmark regarding the legitimacy of the state that at least the state must have public recognition. Community recognition of the law and to ensure the validity of the nature of the

state. The state is in power because the community recognizes its authority. That is why, the stability of the state depends on the recognition of authority by the community. In short, the lack of public recognition has implications for legitimacy that will fade or disappear.

This means that a legitimate government must have broad community support. Public acknowledgment of the election results or regional head elections. Therefore, it becomes important and determines the weight and legitimacy of the government. The higher the public acknowledgment of the election results or regional head elections, the government's legitimacy is also higher in parallel. On the other hand, lower confidence in the results of the general election or regional head elections also implies a decrease in the legitimacy of the government. The government resulting from direct elections should have strong political legitimacy. Because with strong political legitimacy, elected leaders who run the government will work more effectively, convidently, directed and are expected to only be oriented to justice and people's welfare. According to Denpasar City KPU Chair Arsa Jaya (2020) voter participation in the 2020 Denpasar City Election is 54 percent. There were 46 percent of voters who did not come to the polling station to exercise their right to vote. There is a decrease of about two percent compared to the 2015 election, where voter turnout was 56 percent. Maybe the pandemic is the main reason, because there is a psychological burden and an economic burden on society. People are still worried about coming to polling stations, even though KPU and organizers have socialized, implemented, and prepared tools for health protocols at polling stations.

The ideal of democracy is easier to discuss than its implementation. Sometimes it is difficult to make a choice in the practice of governance when there is a way that may be felt more desirable than another, but is less democratic. Can it be in some circumstances justifiable to trade a little democracy, in order to achieve more of the other desired ends. That is, slightly reduced levels of democracy, to be able to achieve more good results (Dahl, 1992: 325).

Towards democracy is a long process of democratization, the seeds need to be sown, nurtured, nurtured and developed, so that they can mature and develop independently. For that, it is necessary to have awareness from various components of this nation to always behave and behave democratically. It should always be remembered that democracy is not the most perfect system – it is easy to fall into the law of the jungle even though it is still in the same package. The public is expected to always be critical and observant, because democracy in principle is populist, but in practice it is often elitist.

Elections are indeed very likely to be more noisy than other systems. Noise should still be considered positive as a sign of the dynamics of the democratic process. As long as the source of the commotion or commotion does not end up dwelling mostly on identity politics in the form of exploiting religious sentiments, race, and pseudo-pruralism. Or fall into misguided campaign strategies such as intimidation, social labeling, and money politics as if taken for granted without seeing the excesses for social life and democracy in the future. Critical discourses related to public interests that should have colored campaign debates have actually sunk due to the sharp competition to attract votes by justifying all means (Basuki, 2017).

Since the reformation period, Indonesia has been hit by a fever for electoral democracy, meaning that the spirit of democracy has hardened even though democracy has been defined as limited to elections. The meaning that grows in society seems to deviate from the true meaning of democracy.

Excessive belief in the general election actually becomes a misleading trap. Elections are just a "periodic democratic" process to establish a formal democracy. People can only provide support and choices through voting. Whereas what is more substantial than the democratic process is democracy in everyday life, democracy which is directly related to the voice of the people and the decision-making process that will bind the community. The trap of electoral democracy can bring tremendous disappointment. According to Valdy, (2012) electoral democracy can take place democratically, but only stops at the formation of formal democracy. After that, democracy in everyday life, especially the decision-making process, no longer takes place democratically and is very far from the contribution and participation of the people.

Method

This community service activity in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District, Denpasar City is carried out from March to August 2022. The method of implementing this PkM activity starts from exploring the place where the service will be carried out, site mapping surveys, approaches to partners, discussions involving youth groups , the Village Head and his apparatus, the Head of the BPD, the Chair of the LPM, PKK, community leaders, students and the PkM team. The discussion method is used in order to find problems related to the low level of political participation in the 2019 Denpasar election, as well as find solutions in an effort to increase political participation and the quality of democracy.

Result and Discussion

Various possibilities that can be offered as alternative programs or policies that can increase voter participation.

Sumerta Kelod Village is one of the villages in East Denpasar District, Denpasar City. Sumerta Kelod Village has an area of approximately 2.68 km2 with a topology located in the Bali Provincial Government office area. The population is 20,879 people consisting of 10,967 males and 9,912 females. The population density is 7,140 people/km2 with 3,019 households (KK). In addition, the population of Sumerta Kelod Village consists of various religions with 2,827 Muslims, 608 Christians, 434 Catholics, 9,111 Hindus, 175 Buddhists and 5 Confucians. Sumerta Kelod village consists of 10 banjars of which 6 traditional banjars (Kedaton, Bengkel, Kebagi, Sebudi, Tanjung Bungkak Kaja and TanjungBungkak Kelod) are original banjars and 4 official banjars (Babakan Sari, Sembung Sari, Badak Sari, and Sungiang Sari) are banjars. new.

The problems that arise in Sumerta Kelod Village include: (1) the real conditions of community life which reflect the description of the development of knowledge and political understanding of the voters regarding democracy, elections and local elections. (2) various possibilities that can be offered as alternative programs or policies that can increase voter participation. (3) lack of understanding of the voting community to actively participate in every election and local election in order to improve the quality of democracy implementation.

Political participation carried out by novice voters in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District in the election of mayor and deputy mayor is voting, campaigning, and talking about political issues.

1. Talking about Political Issues

The form of political participation carried out by novice voters in the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District is talking about political issues. From the results of discussions during the socialization of political participation, novice voters often discuss the issue of choosing Mayor and Deputy Mayor with their friends at school and at work. This shows that the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor has a special place in the hearts of novice voters in Sumerta Kelod Village, District East Denpasar. The election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor in 2019 is the first time for novice voters to choose a leader who will lead the city of Denpasar for the next five years. This is something that is of interest to the public, especially novice voters.

2. Campaign

Another form of political participation is attending public meetings or demonstrations organized by a political organization or by certain interest groups. Such participation can be spontaneous but is often organized by political parties, interest groups to fulfill their respective political agendas. The Pilkada campaign is a means of democratic parties. From the results of the discussion, it turns out that most of the novice voters already know the purpose of the campaign and they think that the campaign is an activity to convey information and show the vision, mission, and program of the candidate pair that will be elected, so that through it they will vote. There are also novice voters in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District, who think that campaigning is an activity that takes up a lot of time and has to beat all their daily routines and activities, resulting in novice voters being reluctant to participate in campaign activities. Other novice voters think that campaigning is a fun activity because they get entertainment, besides that they can provide support to the candidate pairs for regional head or mayor and deputy mayor they support. However, there are also those who argue that the campaign is just a fun activity and a gathering with friends, and does not care about the true meaning of campaign activities. In accordance with the results of the discussion, it turns out that there are still novice voters in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District, who do not understand the purpose of the campaign, and some even do not care about the political situation in the area.

3. Voting

The election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in Denpasar City in 2019 is a series of democratic parties that the residents of Denpasar have been waiting for to determine who will lead the city of Denpasar for the next five years. Therefore, it is not surprising that the people in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District, Denpasar City, are so enthusiastic to make the show a success, especially for novice voters. The results of this service are in line with the opinion of Michel Rush and Phillip Althoff who state that the most commonly known form of political participation is voting. Voting is a form of political participation that does not require much effort. This activity is carried out only when needed. To carry out this activity all it takes is a little initiative (Maran 2001;151). In accordance with the opinion of Michel and Atholff above that voting is a form of political participation

that does not require much effort, but after observing the results of the discussion, it turns out that there are novice voters who in making their political choices do not match their conscience.

In addition to the forms of political participation from the voters mentioned above, there are several driving and inhibiting factors for the political participation of novice voters in the election of mayor and deputy mayor in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District 2019. The driving factors are:

1. Political Stimulus

The driving factors according to Mibrath include the existence of political stimulation, political stimulation is very important to raise awareness of a beginner voter to want to participate in political activities.

2. Personal Characteristics of a Person

In addition to the political stimulus factor, Milbrath also stated that a person's personal characteristics are also a motivating factor for someone to participate in politics. People of social character who have great social concern for social problems, political economy, socio-cultural, defense and security, usually want to be seen in political activities. The novice voters in Sumerta Kelod Village have different personal social characteristics, but from these various differences, the novice voters in the village are quite a lot of people who care and are aware of their political rights as a community. They want to participate in the 2019 Denpasar mayoral election by coming to the polling station where they live according to the invitation they received.

3. Social Characteristics

Another factor driving political participation is social characteristics, after all the social environment also influences perceptions, attitudes and behavior of a person in the political field. Therefore, they want to participate in the political field. The novice voters in Sumerta Kelod Village have different social personal characteristics. -different, but from the various differences, the novice voters in Sumerta Kelod Village are quite a lot who care and are aware of their political rights, their role as a community.

4. Political situation or environment

A conducive political situation or environment is one of the driving factors for political participation. A conducive political environment will make people happy to participate in political life. In a democratic political environment, people feel more free and comfortable to engage in political activities than in an authoritarian political environment. A political environment that is often filled with brutal and violent activities naturally distances people from the political sphere.

In Sumerta Kelod Village, almost every banjar is safe and conducive, so that all people can participate in the 2019 Denpasar City election, including novice voters. From the information obtained from the results of discussions with village officials and community leaders, the novice voters in Sumerta Kelod Village participated in the 2019 Talaud Pilwali based on their own wishes, there was no direction from other parties, there was no authoritarian thing.

5. Political Education

Political education is another driving factor in political participation, political education is very important for the community, especially novice voters, because novice voters are the nation's next generation. from their activities as administrators of political party members.

Many novice voters in Sumerta Kelod Village have received political education from schools, universities, or from their home environment which makes them feel obligated to participate in the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor in Denpasar City in 2019. Meanwhile, political parties themselves are still lacking. even none at all. Political education as a citizen is another supporting factor that is internal for a group that carries out its political participation.

While the inhibiting factors for the political participation of Beginner Voters in the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District, Denpasar City, among others:

1. Busy Daily Activities

The daily activities of the novice voters in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District, Denpasar city, are generally students, students and workers. This is very reasonable for the novice voters whose average age ranges from 17-21 years. This is what makes novice voters reluctant to carry out political activities which generally take up a lot of time. The demands of being a student and working are the main reasons for the novice voters in Sumerta Kelod Village to be reluctant to carry out their activities in the political field. The very complex role of novice voters in their daily activities to fulfill their personal responsibilities has always been the main factor that hinders their involvement in general election activities.

This fact can actually be circumvented by dividing time between school and work by carrying out political activities in the community. It is not taboo if a student or worker participates in political activities in society.

2. Minder

This inferiority is usually caused by a low level of education or a lack of experience in political activities or a low socioeconomic level. According to Mohtar Mas'oed, in addition to education and socio-economics, gender differences also affect a person's active participation in politics. For example, men participate more actively than women, people with high social status are more active than those with low social status (Mohtar Mas'oed, 2008; 61). They feel they are not entitled to appear in political activities than those with social status. They are aware that the reality in society is that politics is more entitled to those who have experience and have sufficient socioeconomic status. The participation of novice voters in the world of politics, for some novice voters is a special thing, so that they think that those who have the right to enter politics are rich, educated or experienced people in the world of politics.

3. Ban from the Family

From the results of the discussion at the political participation socialization event, it turned out that there were novice voters who did not usually participate in politics, especially the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in Sumerta Kelod Village because their parents prohibited it.

The family is a major factor in a person's life. The family can support or even oppose the behavior of other family members. If the family no longer supports a person's decision, then that person is more likely to discourage him.

From the description of the factors driving and inhibiting political participation above, there are several program offers in Sumerta Kelod Village to increase political participation and the quality of democracy. Alternative program policy offers include: (a) intensifying political discussions, (b) encouraging the public to view political news more often, (c) developing social sensitivity, (d) creating a safe atmosphere in expressing differences of opinion, (e) improve political education for novice voters.

The need to provide an understanding of the voting community in actively participating in every election and regional head election in order to improve the quality of the implementation of democracy.

Political participation is essential in a democracy. There are at least three things that must be considered to realize political participation. First, public positions must be competed. Second, participation in order to influence government policy. Third, freedom of opinion, in this case the movement of community groups or organizations should not be hindered by the government. Therefore, participation has an important role, to control and supervise government policies in order to avoid actions that can harm the community, as well as for the government to measure the high or low of the democratic system.

In its implementation, participation has several types and patterns, including: 1) Autonomous, namely participation that is consciously intended to influence the government, 2) Conventional, direct participation such as elections, local elections, etc., 3) Non-conventional, participation that is carried out such as petitions, democracy, and reform, 4) Driven, participation that is carried out or driven in an institution that moves, one of which is a political party (political party) which is used as the main institution and central institution to organize citizens to participate. Even some experts say that when compared to other organizations, political parties have enormous authority to organize citizens. Political parties are central institutions in a democratic country that are given the exclusive right to access power, although later we can show that the condition is pathetic.

In practice, political parties in Indonesia are heavily hegemonized by the power of the Party Chair. In fact, the Articles of Association and Household Budgets (AD/ART) are often used as tools to legalize the authority of the Party Chairperson to perpetuate his power. So it can be understood that when political parties are considered as the central institutions of a democratic state, internally political parties themselves are not democratic. Thus, it is necessary to make various efforts to realize democracy in the internal political parties. There are three things that can be done, namely: 1) observing political parties in selecting and selecting public candidates, 2) observing political parties in selecting the leadership of power, 3) observing political parties formulating a policy. There are two ways to increase people's political participation through political parties, namely: First, by imitating

the American model, where in this case the political party's top board is the manager. The party's top council only regulates the internal affairs of political parties, and does not interfere in public power. For this, there must be a separation between who focuses on internal party management and who focuses on public officials. Second, imitating the European model, where in this model the General Chairperson of Political Parties still has full power, but the succession procedure must exist as regulated in the law, including: 1) Nomination, no single candidate is allowed, there must be at least two candidates in the election process ,. 2) Voters must be made by members of a political party or the right person, 3) Election Mechanism, the election may not be carried out by acclamation, but must be carried out by direct election, and 4) there is a limitation on the term of office of the political party leadership, related to the limitation of the term of office of the political party leadership. must be regulated within the party. Regarding efforts to increase political participation and the quality of democracy in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District, Denpasar City, the Warmadewa University service team carried out activities by carrying out owner socialization.

The process of delivering information about the stages of holding elections and establishing relationships with the community so that the community with their own awareness can actively participate in the implementation of the post-conflict local election is by conducting socialization. In an effort to increase political participation and the quality of democracy in the upcoming elections, the Unwar service team took action in the form of socialization with institutional targets in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District which included: village officials, LPM administrators, BPD administrators, Youth Organizations, Seka cadets, Kadus and community leaders. The method of socialization used is guided by KPU regulations regarding Socialization and Community Participation in the Election of Regents and/Deputy Regents and/or Mayors and Deputy Mayors. The content of the socialization material delivered is more oriented towards building understanding. The understanding here is to build awareness to novice voters about the importance of youth's role in democratic activities. For the success of an area, the role of youth is an important pillar so that their participation is very necessary to choose leaders who will determine the direction of national development. This socialization is aimed at covering youth and seka cadets who have just entered the age of 17, who are still very minimal in understanding and experience regarding post-conflict local elections. This is because they have never participated in the post-conflict local election before, so this segment is very important for socialization. Quantitatively, these novice voters have a very large number spread across all banjars in Sumerta Kelod Village. The socialization method used is face-to-face with delivery patterns such as lectures, dialogues containing electoral messages. This method is very suitable to be carried out for the younger generation so that it does not make participants bored, besides that it also easily provides understanding to novice voters about the correct voting procedure.

The socialization strategy carried out by the Unwar service team to indigenous peoples, where the content of the socialization material presented has shown clarity in the implementation of the post-conflict local election and can provide understanding to indigenous peoples about the importance of community participation in the implementation of the upcoming post-conflict local election, this can be seen from the content of the material delivered including: regarding the stages, schedule and program of the election as well as an appeal to indigenous peoples to be present to use their voting rights at the time of voting. The target of socialization in this segment is to traditional community leaders in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District.

The method of socialization used is in the form of face-to-face with the implementation pattern such as lectures and dialogues about the correct voting procedures. The purpose of this method is to provide understanding and awareness to indigenous peoples about the importance of their participation in the implementation of the post-conflict local election, as well as to prevent errors during voting that could result in invalid votes. This method is also implemented by utilizing every activity of indigenous peoples.

Conclusion

Political participation carried out by novice voters in Suimerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District in the election of mayor and deputy mayor is voting, campaigning, and talking about political issues. The factors that drive political participation from novice voters in the election of mayor and deputy mayor in Sumerta Kelod Village, East Denpasar District in 2019, are five elements including the presence of political incentives, one's personal characteristics, social characteristics, political situation or environment, and education. political. While the factors that hinder the political participation of novice voters in the Denpasar city regional head election is the busyness of efforts made to increase political participation and the quality of democracy is to provide socialization to novice voters, indigenous peoples and the general public is to provide socialization about the importance of participation in political participation , especially in the election of public leaders so that in the future there will be leaders who truly fight for the fate of the people towards a just and prosperous society.

Opening up is an attitude that needs to be done by novice voters to be able to show their abilities, especially in the world of politics, and distance themselves from feelings of inadequacy or inferiority. Families and neighborhoods as well as community leaders need to provide support through early political education for novice voters. Improving the quality of the role of novice voters in the world of politics, the government should provide facilities that can be utilized for the activities of novice voters in the world of politics. The provision of political education that is specifically shown to novice voters is also needed so that it can stimulate the desire of novice voters to participate in the world of politics.

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