

**THE ROLE OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS AS A POLITICAL EDUCATION
MEANS IN IMPROVING YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN 2018
REGIONAL ELECTION IN BANDUNG CITY**

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Abstract

This study tried to explain the role of interest groups, as one component of the political system in Indonesia. The research questions in this study are how the regeneration mechanism was carried out by Youth Organizations in the process of political education as an effort to improve youth political participation in the 2018 regional election in Bandung, what programs were carried out by Youth Organizations in the process of political education as an effort to increase youth political participation in the 2018 regional election in Bandung, how the success of the Youth Organization program in the process of political education as an effort to improve youth political participation in the 2018 regional election in Bandung was, what obstacles faced by Youth Organizations in efforts to improve youth political participation in the 2018 regional election in Bandung were, how the efforts of the Youth Organization to overcome the obstacles faced in increasing youth political participation in the 2018 regional election in the city of Bandung were. In this study, the Grand Theory of Robert Brownhill and Patrice Smart was used regarding political education. The approach of this research was qualitative with a case study method. Primary data collection was carried out technically through observation, and in-depth interviews. While secondary data collection was carried out through extensive documentary data analysis.

Keywords: KNPI, Political Education, Youth Organization, Youth Political Participation

Abstrak

Penelitian ini mencoba untuk menjelaskan peranan kelompok kepentingan, sebagai salah satu komponen dari sistem politik di Indonesia. Rumusan masalah dalam penelitian ini adalah bagaimana mekanisme kaderisasi yang dilakukan oleh Organisasi Kepemudaan dalam proses pendidikan politik sebagai upaya meningkatkan partisipasi politik pemuda pada Pilkada 2018 di Kota Bandung, program apa saja yang dilaksanakan oleh Organisasi Kepemudaan dalam proses pendidikan politik sebagai upaya meningkatkan partisipasi politik pemuda pada Pilkada 2018 di Kota Bandung, bagaimana keberhasilan program Organisasi Kepemudaan dalam proses pendidikan politik sebagai upaya meningkatkan partisipasi politik pemuda pada Pilkada 2018 di Kota Bandung, apa saja kendala yang dihadapi oleh Organisasi Kepemudaan dalam upaya meningkatkan partisipasi politik pemuda pada Pilkada 2018 di Kota Bandung, bagaimana upaya Organisasi Kepemudaan untuk mengatasi kendala yang dihadapi dalam meningkatkan partisipasi politik pemuda pada Pilkada 2018 di Kota Bandung. Pada penelitian ini menggunakan Grand Theory dari Robert Brownhill dan Patrice Smart mengenai pendidikan politik. Pendekatan penelitian ini adalah kualitatif dengan metode studi kasus. Pengumpulan data primer dilakukan secara teknis melalui observasi, dan wawancara mendalam. Pengumpulan data sekunder dilakukan melalui analisis data dokumenter yang luas.

Kata kunci: *Organisasi Kepemudaan, KNPI, pendidikan politik, partisipasi politik pemuda*

1. Introduction

Nowdays, as to government policy, all countries place education in a very important position including in ensuring the continuity of education for citizens. This applies as well in Indonesia as a developing country in which Indonesia prioritizes the importance of education as a concrete step to maintain the continuity of the nation's survival.

In the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, Provision 1 Subsection (1) states that "Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual power , self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and required skills for them selves, society, nation, and required skills for themselves, society, nation, and country.

Referring to the explanation of the National Education System Law No. 20 of 2003, it can be viewed that education is an effort to create citizens as people in complete in a way that they comprehend completely about what happened, is happening and will happen. Education will determine the quality of citizens in terms of understanding the rights and obligations of the country. This quality of citizens will determine the survival of the nation which in this case is political establishment.

As an effort of the government in improving political establishment for the lives of the people, one of them is by prioritizing youth development. The youth development relates to the National Education System which aims to enable citizens to develop the

potential and have awareness as citizens who understand the rights and obligations of the country.

With regard to political education, "Political education is an intentional, deliberate and systematic educational effort to create politically conscious individuals, and be able to become politically responsible / ethical in achieving political goals" (Kartono, 2009, 64) .

Political education as an effort is not only to fashion human beings consciously to become citizens who know their rights and obligations as citizens, but also "Political education as a function of political structures with the aim of improving people's political knowledge so that they can participate optimally in their political systems." (Kantaprawira , in Affandi, 2011, 33).

If it is looked at, then in the past few years, citizens' participation in democratic countries have a vital role in running the government. Direct citizens' participation is needed to achieve the country's goals in a more advanced direction. The form of political participation which becomes one of the objectives of the level of citizens' understanding in political awareness is general election.

The reality that is happening now is a different matter, in which the level of political participation in Indonesia is classified to be low as a democratic country. The data from the General Election Commissions (KPU) stated "voter participation rates continued to decline from 93% of the 1999 election, to 84% of the 2004 election, 71% in 2009 election, and 73% in 2014 election. Consistently the average decline of the three election periods is

amounted to approximately 10%. The data do not include citizens who have the right to vote but do not use their voting rights because of the chaos of the final voter data".

Although the level of citizens' participation declines in each election contestation, the General Election Commission (KPU) also noted that "the number of youth voters in the 2018 election reached 11 percent of the total 186 million voters. This number increased compared to the previous two elections. In 2014, the number of new voters was around 27 million from 147 million voters (18.4 percent). While in the 2009 election, there were around 36 million youth voters out of 171 million voters (21 percent)" (<https://nasional.kompas.com>).

This increase in political participation shows that political awareness among youth is growing and can become a new hope amid the decline in political participation in national contestation. Youth is expected to be able to maintain the survival of the nation, and to become a complete citizen in understanding the rights and obligations as citizens.

To develop the potential possessed by the young generations, the government establishes a rule contained in the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 40 of 2009, Provision 1 Subsection (11) about Youth which states that Youth Organizations are a place to develop youth potential.

The number of youth organizations in Indonesia cannot be counted on the fingers, it is around 100 youth organizations. As a unifying forum for every youth organization throughout Indonesia, the Indonesian Youth National Committee (KNPI) was born on July 23, 1973 with the intention of being a national forum for youth. One of the aims of the

establishment of KNPI was the realization of the communion and unity of Indonesian youth for the sake of the establishment of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

Youth organizations are not only a forum for young people, but also as a system of cooperation, a system of working relations, and as a process of division of tasks. In that sense, youth organizations help prepare young people who need communication skills and skills needed in job world.

Although there have been many studies on the role of youth organizations as political education institutions in improving youth participation, the researchers still believe that studies of youth organizations remain interesting to be studied especially the role of KNPI in improving youth participation. The reason is as previously explained that the role of youth in national development particularly on political establishment cannot be excluded. Youths' role is needed so that the wheels of the country are stable.

In carrying out this role, the youth is not only armed with enthusiasm and hard work, but an understanding of politics itself must be possessed by every young generation in Indonesia. Therefore, the researchers believe that the role of the KNPI as a forum for youth organizations in Indonesia can unite young forces within the Indonesian nation itself. KNPI as a youth organization that aims to improve the potential of youth, especially political understanding, in socializing politics expected to be easily understood and to improve youth participation for active participation.

1. Method

The research approach used in this study was qualitative approach. This approach

emphasizes more on the depth of the data not on the amount of it. In addition, this study emulates "natural, with more attention to the phenomena under the study as it is not as it should" (Muchtar, 2015).

As to the method, a case study was employed. The use of this research method was expected to investigate contemporary phenomena contained in real-life contexts, which are carried out when the boundaries between the phenomena and contexts are not yet clear, by using various data sources (Yin, 2011).

The phenomena examined further in this study are about the type of pattern of cadres of Youth Organizations as a means of political education in improving youth political participation in the 2018 regional election in Bandung.

In this study, the data collection technique are as follows:

1. In-depth interviews, regarding the pattern of cadre of Youth Organizations as a means of political education in improving youth political participation with the Office of Youth and Sports (Dispora) of Bandung City, Executive Board of the Indonesian National Youth Committee (KNPI) of Bandung City, and members of the KNIP of Bandung City.
2. Observations carried out related to activities of the youth in Bandung City. As for the activities are the form of regeneration patterns, organizational socialization, studies, seminars, and major events held by DPD KNPI of Bandung City.
3. The literature review is focused on the culture of youth organizations, apart from that it is based on books, theories or

literature studies around the role of youth organizations in improving youth political participation.

Furthermore, the data analysis used in this study was carried out continuously from the beginning to the end of the study, both on the field and outside the field. The data analysis technique used consisted of three activities that occurred simultaneously namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion / verification.

3. Discussion

a. The Origin of Indonesian Youth National Committee (KNIP)

The Indonesian Youth Declaration, 23rd of July 1973, was the foundation of the birth of the Indonesian Youth National Committee (KNPI), emerging from an awareness of the responsibility of Indonesian youth in mobilizing all efforts and abilities to grow, improve and develop awareness as an independent and sovereign nation based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution (UUD 1945).

The Youth Declaration aims to follow up on the sacred content of the Youth Pledge (*Sumpah Pemuda*) which has outlined the need for association, by embodying one nation, one homeland, one language, and participating in the independence. Thus the 23rd of July was established as the anniversary date of KNPI, and institutionally KNPI as a forum for youth communication, a forum for regeneration and participation of Indonesian youth standardized at the Congress I KNPI in 1974.

In 1982, the government determined to implement Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution purely and consequently by making Pancasila the only hope in the life of society, nation and country.

In the context of organizational life in society, the determination above encouraged the enactment of the Law of the Republic of Indonesia No.8 of 1985 concerning Community Organizations which has implications for the existence and position of KNPI including youth and student organizations, so in 1987 the Indonesian Youth Agreement was formed.

The Indonesian Youth Agreement further strengthened the determination of the Youth Community Organizations (youth organizations) to meet in the KNPI as a forum for communication, regeneration, participation and dynamization of Indonesian Youth in responding to the challenges of the nation's future development.

The multi-dimensional crisis ahead of the turn of the millennium, which occurred in all aspects of the life of the nation and state in Indonesia was very alarming. Concerned about crystallizing in the direction of national disintegration, on November 4th, 1999, in Caringin-Bogor was initiated the Indonesian Youth Determination which adhered to the slogan "We Are All One, One in Idea, One in Feel, Indonesia".

For this determination as well, the KNPI has become one that has not been eroded by the reformation of the movement which started from the above multi-dimensions and fundamentally reformation has overhauled the order of life of the nation and country. The Indonesian youth association at the KNPI is not only for associating, but also for carrying the role of history to become the pioneers and prime movers of the dynamical development of the nation in the present and future of Indonesia's National Development.

To that end, the KNPI is required to constantly reorient, reactualize, revitalize, and respond to the functions and roles of the KNPI so that it is always contextual in responding to the challenges of the times and needs of the nation. On this basis, the 2002 X Youth/ KNPI congress in Bekasi established A New Paradigm of the KNPI formulated to become a basic reference in the elaboration of organizational policies in each period of management.

b. Cadre Pattern of Youth Organizations Conducted by DPD KNPI of Bandung City in Improving Youth Political Participation

Organization is a process or tool that has shared ideals and goals. In realizing these shared ideals and goals, people in these environments have organized tasks. "Organizing determines what tasks it does, how these tasks are grouped, who reports to whom, and where decisions must be made" (Robbins, 2015, 2).

Community groups that do not have coordination efforts between members, and then have different goals within the group, and the absence of management division of tasks, cannot be called an organization. "The organizational element is simply having three elements, namely there are people, there is cooperation, and there is a common goal. These three elements do not stand alone, but are interconnected so that they are a unified whole" (Wursanto, 2003, 53).

As for relating to the type of cadre of youth organizations as a means of political education in improving political participation carried out in the neighborhood of the Regional Representative Council (DPD) of

Indonesian Youth National Committee (KNPI) of Bandung towards youth is through the recruitment phase that comes from members of the youth organization that associate in the DPD KNPI of Bandung City. The youth organization send a maximum of 3 members to become administrators in DPD KNPI of Bandung City.

Furthermore, netted members from various youth organizations that associate in the DPD KNPI of Bandung will be classified based on the ability and interviews conducted by the ranks of the DPD KNPI of Bandung City. He added that there is no special cadre curriculum in the cadre mechanism in the DPD KNIP of Bandung. The cadre formation of members of the DPD KNIP of Bandung City is actually the responsibility of the youth organization that has been the auspices of the previous members. However, the DPD KNIP of Bandung City has the same responsibility in improving self potential especially in political insights.

In addition, the mechanism on cadre carried out begin with the recruitment of members from youth organizations in the city of Bandung, then there are debriefings on the youth paradigm, the determination of the youth and the visions of the DPD KNPI of Bandung City. He added that in terms of establishing a basis for leadership, political insight and a spirit of development entrusted to each of the youth organizations, however, the DPD KNIP of Bandung City still always coordinates with the youth organization. Because the youth organizations in the DPD KNIP of Bandung City are technical implementers or in other words is the extension of the DPD KNPI of Bandung City.

The regeneration program carried out by every youth organization in the city of Bandung according to the management of the DPD KNIP of Bandung City has the common goal of forming a generation that understands where they are, what is controlled, and what must be done. In other words, even though the youth organization that associate in the DPD KNIP of Bandung City has diverse characteristics, with one main goal to develop the potential of youth in the city of Bandung then the diversity becomes an important capital in the regeneration process.

In carrying out its organizational functions, the DPD KNPI of Bandung City always refers to the Indonesian constitution, namely the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 40 of 2009 Provision 40 Subsection (4), concerning Youth which explains that "youth organizations function to support national interests, empower potential, and develop leadership, entrepreneurship and pioneering".

In addition, the DPD KNPI of Bandung City also always refers to the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 17 of 2013 Provision 5, concerning Community Organizations, which explains that the functions of community organizations are:

- 1) channelling activities in accordance with the interests of members and/or organizational goals;
- 2) fostering and developing members to realize organizational goals;
- 3) channelling community aspirations;
- 4) community empowerment;
- 5) fulfilment of social services;

- 6) community participation to maintain, preserve and strengthen national unity and/or
- 7) the keeper and preserver of norms, values and ethics in the life of the community, nation and country.

In realizing the mandate of the DPD KNPI of Bandung City in an effort to enhance the political participation of youth, especially its members, within a period of once in a week, discussions on contemporary issues that occur in Indonesia are carried out. This is considered to be an important capital, because after participating in the discussion, they are expected to have more enthusiasm to build the nation by participating in every development program carried out by the government.

In an effort to improve the political participation of youth, the DPD KNPI of Bandung City always carries out seminars entitled politics and presents speakers who are competent in the fields of politics and governance. In addition, in an effort to enhance the political participation of youth, the DPD KNPI of Bandung City often becomes the speaker in every activity carried out by students or youth in the city of Bandung.

Furthermore, the DPD KNPI of Bandung also often conducts activities in partnership with youth organizations, student organizations and government institutions in the city of Bandung especially activities related to important days in Indonesia such as, Indonesia's independence day, Youth Oath, Heroes' Day, and National Awakening Day which are designed with various activities that attract people's attention. By carrying out such activities, it is expected that the community, especially the youth, will recall the identity as

a social creature, reminding the task of youth as a factor in the success of nation building.

Based on the findings of observations, the researchers saw that the program was still not maximized in order to enhance political participation. This was evidenced by the lack of activities that attracted the attention of young people to contribute to organizing and participating in a series of activities carried out by the DPD KNPI of Bandung City. Youth participation is actually an important capital that must be cultivated in building the nation, but in reality only a handful of young people have strong desires and inherit the spirit of the heroes to build the nation.

Nevertheless, the program carried out by the DPD KNPI of Bandung is in accordance with the spirit inherited by the founders of the KNPI. Recruitment and cadre training carried out by the DPD KNPI of Bandung City, which is one of the programs in an effort to enhance youth political participation, is already appropriate. The DPD KNPI of Bandung City in the process of recruiting members gives full rights to youth organizations while always coordinating and providing regeneration training to youth organizations that associate in the DPD KNPI of Bandung City.

4. Conclusion

In fostering and carrying out political education in an effort to improve youth political participation in the city of Bandung, the DPD KNPI divided into 4 programs, namely first, routine programs such as studies once within a week with themes that adapt contemporary issues. Second, independent programs such as conducting advocacy training, public speaking training, focus group discussion.

Third, partnership programs such as collaborating with government institutions to hold youth oath activities, organizing training activities with youth organizations in West Java. Fourth, participation programs such as participating as speakers in students activities in providing insight into leadership and political education.

It is expected that with the pattern of fostering political education such as explained in this study, youth in Bandung city can further develop their potential to have awareness as citizens who understand the rights and obligations of the country. Moreover, they are also expected to be able to improve youth political knowledge so that they can participate maximally in their political system.

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