



The Concept of Democracy Education as an Effort For Developing The Political Culture of Participating Communities

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ABSTRACT

Overcoming the concept of democratic education as an effort to develop the political culture of a participating society. This research was conducted using the method of library research (library research) by collecting information from various sources, such as books, journals with a qualitative approach. The results of the study show that the ideal concept of democratic education consists of three processes, first is the existence of political literacy for the community, second is the socialization of democracy through group discussion forums (FGD), public discussion of the community. The third is to provide political experience to the people by forming a democratic community. This political experience can be carried out through political parties, social organizations, and communities to support the direct involvement of the people in the democratic process. And forming a democratic culture of a participating society is the main agenda in the process of maturing democracy.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The State of Indonesia is one of the countries that classifies itself as a democratic country based on the ideological values of Pancasila. Of the many democratic systems, it is the choice of many countries in the world. Many say that democracy is the most ideal of several existing systems. But that does not mean that democracy does not encounter problems in its development. In the implementation of democracy there are still many obstacles, so that democracy as an ideal system for building Indonesia's future has not been able to provide good results (Kusmanto, 2014). In Indonesia, the democracy development index is still relatively low. Therefore, democracy really needs education in achieving good development. The authority of the Indonesian people to fight for their national interests is increasingly fading in developing a self-governing system. The introduction of democracy in society can certainly be done one way or another through education.

Education is an effort to form quality human beings. Implementation of the educational process should be oriented towards building and revitalizing the quality of human resources (Human Resources) so that they have competency according to the needs of the times (Rosyad & Maarif, 2020). Likewise, democratic education is a process of growing people's understanding of democracy. Education is an effort to form an intelligent society, namely a society that is Pancasilaist, has faith and fears God Almighty, is advanced, independent and has cultural insight (Tilaar, 2002). Education and democracy are two very important things in the life of the nation and state. Education is a major factor in the success of democracy. Because, education is a vehicle in providing an understanding of democracy to the community. So that fostering the development of democracy in society really needs democratic education as a concept of developing political culture in building a participating society or often referred to as a politically literate society. The concept of developing the political culture of the participating societies is essential in the discussion of democracy education. Judging from the development of democracy in Indonesia, it is very minimal and finds many problems in the implementation of democracy. That is, democratic education is needed to support the development of community participation.

Democracy is nothing new and is often discussed in public spaces and is a vocabulary that is often spoken. Many say that democracy is very close to power. This paradigm becomes the wrong paradigm if democracy is always accompanied by power. Even though more than that, democracy has become something essential in people's everyday lives. Even often misinterpreted and misused by the rulers. The word democracy is often used as slogans in order to gain political support from the people. If you look closely, democracy often goes hand in hand with freedom. Democracy is a collection of ideas and principles about freedom, and even contains a number of practices and procedures for achieving freedom that were formed through the history of democracy. Society is a community that can form its own political order. Therefore, democratic education in society is very important and essential to form a participating society so that people can instill a participatory political culture. Where people have reached a high democratic literacy. Able to understand in substance and quality democratic processes in accordance with Pancasila democracy. Democratic education also has an important position because it can influence people's political behavior. So that it requires a theoretical study to form a good concept in conducting democratic education in society to support the political involvement of the community.

2. METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with the type of library research (Library research) by examining various references such as books, journals, research reports and various other supporting documents related to the problem to be solved (Nazir, 1988). Research with a qualitative approach is a research process with the aim of understanding and describing, as well as interpreting social problems and phenomena in society, in this case related to the concept of democratic education as an effort to develop the political culture of the participating communities.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. The Ideal Concept of Democratic Education

Initially, democracy was understood through a model of political participation involving citizens who had entered the adult phase in a political process (Nurtjahjo, 2008). The concept of democracy starts from the direct involvement of the people in determining their political attitudes. So it becomes a concept of government. This can provide an explanation that democracy cannot only be understood partially (half-measures) through its substantial principles or procedural arrangements. Because, democracy is a substantive existence that exists as a rational political order (Nurtjahjo, 2008). Therefore, the substance of democracy can be introduced through democracy education which is oriented towards growing people's understanding of democracy or can be called democratic literacy. It is very necessary to think of an ideal concept of democratic education that can build a culture of community participation. The concept of good democracy is a concept that can adapt to the conditions and circumstances of society. Democracy becomes a variable, not a fixed phenomenon. Democracy can change and develop according to the times. Democracy is an entity that can be said to be very dynamic so that the analysis must be dynamic (Suyatno, 2008). Democracy does not suddenly appear in the midst of society, but democracy is a long process through habituation, learning and appreciation. So social support and a democratic environment are needed. The success of a democracy can be seen to what extent democracy as a principle is understood by citizens and the government and implemented and obeyed by both parties. According to Muslim scholar Nurcholish Madjid, a democratic outlook on life can rely on materials that have developed, both theoretically and from practical experience in countries where democracy is already established (Madjid, 2000). The implementation of the norms and pillars of democracy that are really needed is the role of the state and community participation. Indonesia can be said to be a country that is still immature in the process of implementing and administering democracy. Thus, Indonesia still needs adjustments to reach democratic maturity (Ubaedilla, A. Rozak, 2013).

Democracy education for citizens is important, not only in developing countries but also in developed countries, like America etc. The urgency of this interest according to (Azra, 2001) is the still high level of political apathy in society and the tendency of non-literate citizens towards the workings and existing democratic institutions. Through good democratic education it is possible for every citizen to practice democratic life in the future. Through democratic education in the community can be a concrete step towards the maturity of democracy. This can be done through political literacy within the grassroots community. The ideal concept of democratic education can be carried out if the government and society become stakeholders who work together to create good democratic education. Democratic education must be developed in two models. First, the model of school-based democratic education in the context of formal education. The development of this model is taught in the

form of intra, co and extra-curricular activities with democratic nuances. Second, democratic education in the context of people's lives. The two models of democratic education put forward by Gandal and Finn above must be designed in a holistic, systemic and sustainable manner (Gandal, M. and Find, 1992). The author sees the ideal concept of democratic education that can be carried out through political literacy as a vehicle for fostering democratic literacy as an educational process. First, the existence of political literacy is the knowledge and understanding of citizens about political processes and political issues, a knowledge and understanding that enables every citizen to effectively carry out his role as a citizen. Political literacy is not merely a normative concept, but a combination of knowledge, skills and political attitudes (Bakti, 2012).

People who have low understanding of political concepts and procedures (political illiteracy) related to the right to express opinions in public, socio-politically can raise: First, they are vulnerable to political propaganda carried out by certain interest groups. Second, it can give birth to political behavior that is destructive (defecting) such as anarchy in demonstrations. Third, without sufficient political literacy regarding the practice of daily governing and policy making, it has the potential to increase the risk of politics moving away from the public interest (Karim, 2015). After political literacy, it is necessary to socialize the importance of democratic literacy. In an effort to raise public awareness. To achieve this level of public awareness, a learning process (democratic education) and various experiences, both formal and non-formal, are needed (Yuniarto, 2020).

Second, there is socialization of the importance of democratic education as a vehicle for implementation in upholding existing democratic principles, for example holding a Group Discussion Forum (FGD) by presenting speakers who are experts in politics then discussing the position and role of society in democracy, holding public discussions related to contemporary political issues. Through this activity, people will be able to foster democratic literacy. Indirectly, it will influence the mindset and behavior of the people in responding to democracy. Sometimes democratic education to the community through non-formal education is more massive than through formal education. The socialization of democracy becomes a forum for the community to form a formal community as an implementation of their understanding which can be used as an experience in carrying out democratic values in society. In addition, socialization of democracy is a process of maturing society in implementing democracy in various aspects of life. Socialization can also be done through the media, utilizing sound technology and information developments. As a means of democratic education for the community.

Technological developments in the era of globalization have ushered in an era where all information is spread so quickly and simultaneously. This has both positive and negative sides for the development of political socialization (Bashori, 2018). According to Syafi'i Ma'arif democracy is not a discourse, mindset, or political behavior that is built at once. According to him, democracy is a process in which society and the state play a role in building a culture and system of life that can create prosperity and uphold justice both socially, economically and politically. This means that all components in the development of democracy influence each other, especially society and government. Third, there is political experience for the community by forming a democratic community. This political experience can be carried out through political parties, social organizations, and communities to support the direct involvement of the people in the democratic process. Of course the process of political experience for the community is dynamic and becomes a choice for them. This political experience is the implementation of the two concepts of democratic education above. These three concepts of democratic education must be sustainable and become a movement for

democratic change in Indonesia to be of high quality. This is roughly the ideal concept of democratic education that can be implemented today. It has never been done, but it must be maximized again in efforts to build quality democracy by educating human resources.

3.2. Community Democracy Culture

Community Democracy Culture In state life, democracy is a system that must be realized, especially in creating a modern country (Kaelan, 2018). From Prof Kaelan's explanation, we can analyze that a democratic country needs education in providing an understanding of democratic values in society, of course, none other than to shape the democratic culture of the participating societies. Democratic culture is the whole socio-cultural experience that forms the pattern of characteristics of the democratic life of society. The culture of democracy in this paper is understood from the second perspective of democracy, namely empirical/procedural democracy so that it is meaningful as a whole of socio-cultural experiences that shape the characteristic patterns of democratic behavior in society (Suacana, 2011). Values and attitudes tend to be people's behavior, and this behavior has a large and direct impact on political life (Newton, 2020). Political culture is a pattern of behavior of a society in the life of the state, the implementation of state administration, government politics, laws, customs and customary norms that are lived by all members of society every day. Political culture can also be interpreted as a system of shared values of a society that has the awareness to participate in collective decision-making and the determination of public policies for the whole community (Yusuf, 2016). Related to the importance of sowing a culture of democracy through education, the growth of democracy in Indonesia will definitely get better. If we look further at the increasing symptoms and tendencies of political illiteracy, citizens are not politically literate and do not know how democracy and its institutions work. Then the increase in political apathy is seen from the minimal involvement of citizens in the political process. Democratic education is something that is non-negotiable for the Indonesian nation (Ubaedilla, A. Rozak, 2013). So acculturation, the growth of democratic values are carried out in a systematic and directed manner both formally and non-formally. Forming a democratic culture of a participatory society is the main agenda in the process of maturing democracy. Upholding the principles and values of democracy as an important essence in politics. Politics and democracy are two sides of a coin that cannot be separated and society is a supporting factor for the implementation of democracy. Participating society's democratic culture is the highest awareness in society to analyze policies, provide suggestions and input related to government policies, and be involved as part of the existing democratic process.

Culture of community democracy is participant (participant democracy) culture, namely a culture of democracy characterized by very high political awareness. The community can provide their ideas, views and be actively involved in political activities. Is a form of political culture in which community members already have a good understanding of the four dimensions that determine political culture. They have adequate knowledge regarding the political system in general, about the role of the government in making policies along with reinforcement, and participating actively in the ongoing political process. Society tends to be directed towards an active personal role in all of the dimensions above, even though their feelings and their evaluation of this role can either accept or reject (Khoirul Saleh and Achmat Munif, 2015). Smart citizens are citizens who participate in the context of democracy either directly or indirectly. This role and participation is a part that emerges through awareness as a manifestation of the education and understanding of citizen democracy. Democracy is one

of the ways to realize national ideals, the democratic process will depend heavily on citizen democracy education. Principles, values in cultivating a democratic culture are discourses that need to be cultivated in the context of a pluralistic society, this fosters an understanding and ability towards the rights and obligations of citizens and how to implement these rights and obligations as a process of democratic education. If democratic education has been going well and systematically, it will automatically form the political culture of the participating people (Wahab, 2011).

4. CONCLUSION

Democratic education becomes part of the process of upholding democratic principles. Providing education about democracy is the biggest agenda for countries that adhere to a democratic system. A good democracy is a democracy that is run by people who understand democracy itself. Requires the quality of human resources through education so that it can support the development of a mature democracy. Public awareness of the democratic process is very important and the position of the government in providing democracy education to the community is an absolute requirement that must be carried out by these two stakeholders. So that this article provides ideal comments about democratic education for society that is in accordance with the current conditions of society. If democracy education is carried out properly, systematically, and directed, it will indirectly form a democratic culture of a society that participates in or is literate in the process of democracy in Indonesia. Education and democracy are two things that cannot be separated because education is the motor of democracy in developing its values in society.

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