

THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN POLITICAL EDUCATION IN THE INDONESIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

Political education has an important role in building political awareness, active participation, and a deep understanding of the political process among the people. Political parties, as the main actors in the Indonesian political system, have great responsibility and potential in carrying out political education to the public. This study aims to analyze the role of political parties in implementing political education in the Indonesian political system. The research method used is qualitative research with a descriptive approach. The results of this study indicate that political parties have a significant role in implementing political education in Indonesia. They can play the role of intermediary between government and society in disseminating objective political information, promoting political participation, and increasing public understanding of democratic principles, political rights, and political decision-making processes. However, this research also reveals that there are challenges and obstacles in implementing effective political education by political parties. Some of the challenges faced include a lack of resources, lack of awareness of political parties on the importance of political education, and political polarization that affects efforts to make political education inclusive and non-biased.

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1. INTRODUCTION

A political party is an organization formed to fight for certain views, beliefs and aspirations of a number of people regarding social life which is carried out by means of political struggle, namely managing power so that it can influence the processes of forming public policies (Prasetya, 2011). Political parties are instruments that are inseparable from the democratic system in any country in the world. Political parties are considered as the embodiment or symbol of the modern state. Therefore, almost all democratic and communist countries, developed countries and developing countries have political parties. However, the forms and functions of political parties in various countries differ from each other according to the political system implemented in that country (Suryo, 2015).

The role that political parties are supposed to play According to Ramlan Surbakti (1992), the primary role of political parties is to seek and hold power in order to accomplish programs that are based on a certain ideology. This function of political parties is considered to be the most important function of political parties. But in addition to vying for and retaining power, political parties also have a role to play in this process. Specifically, in Law Number 2 of 2008 concerning political parties, it states the functions of political parties, which are as follows: a. political education for members and the general public so that they become Indonesian citizens who are aware of their rights and obligations in the life of society, nation, and state; b. creating a conducive climate for the unity and integrity of the Indonesian nation for the welfare of society; and c. absorbing, collecting, and channeling people's political opinions. These functions were established so that members

According to Article 2 of Law Number 2 of 2008 Concerning Political Parties, one of the functions of political parties is to serve as a means of political education for their members as well as the larger community. This is to ensure that individuals become informed citizens of Indonesia who are aware of their rights and obligations in the life of society, nation, and state. This indicates that all political parties in Indonesia have an obligation to educate all levels of society, using materials that are specified in Law Number 2 of 2008 addressing political parties (Fakhruzy, 2020). According to this law, political education is a process that entails the study and comprehension of the rights, obligations, and responsibilities of every citizen in the life of the nation and state (Hermawan, 2020).

In his book, *Thought and influence in Indonesian Politics*, Alfian (1992) writes, "Political education is a conscious effort to change the process of political socialization of society so that they understand and really appreciate the values contained in an ideal political system to be built." This quote is taken from Alfian's book. While this is going on, Djiwandono asserts in Sumantri (2003) that: "Political education is a process of conveying the nation's political culture which includes political ideals and operational norms and a system of political organization based on Pancasila values that is important for all people, all citizens".

Political education is critical for educating the people about politics and influencing the amount of popular engagement in elections. The level of community and political participation is today regarded as lacking or low. Many citizens still do not know or comprehend their political rights and obligations, which has an impact on their political engagement (Kharisma, 2015). The numerous factors that influence community engagement cannot be separated from the critical role of political parties. Because the role of political parties in providing political education to the public is still being debated (Husni & Harmanto, 2021; Budiana & Achmad, 2022), political parties that play an important role in the implementation of political education are expected to be able to educate the public through their functions.

Political parties are not only political institutions that play a role in winning general elections and forming governments, but also have the responsibility to form and strengthen political awareness and political participation in society. As political organizations that represent the aspirations and interests of the public, political parties have broad access to society and sufficient resources to disseminate objective political information and provide political education to citizens (Suparman & Rahman, 2017; Soeradi et al., 2023).

In practice, however, the implementation of political education by political parties in Indonesia has not been entirely effective nor has it attained its objectives. There are still challenges and obstacles that must be surmounted, such as the lack of awareness among political parties regarding the significance of political education, the lack of adequate resources, and the existence of political polarization, all of which can hinder efforts to make political education inclusive and non-partisan.

Therefore, the purpose of this study is to analyze the function of political parties in implementing political education within the political system of Indonesia. This study will investigate the role of political parties in enhancing political consciousness, political participation, and public comprehension of democratic principles, political rights, and political decision-making processes in Indonesia. In addition, this research will identify the difficulties political parties confront in implementing effective political education. With a greater understanding of the role of political parties in political education, it is hoped that this research can contribute to the development of more effective strategies for implementing political education in Indonesia among political parties and other relevant stakeholders.

2. METHODS

The research strategy is qualitative and descriptive, which is an approach to describing a phenomenon that occurs in the field. In this instance, the researcher attempts to describe how political education is implemented within political parties. Reality demonstrates that political parties presently occupy a strategic position in the Indonesian political system. A descriptive study is founded on a review of pertinent literature and various documents that serve as the study's supporting data. Writing-based documents can include chronicles, life histories, stories, biographies, regulations, and policies. Images-based documents, such as photographs, live images, and illustrations (Sugiyono, 2011; Yulianah, 2022). While descriptive studies can be analyzed using a model analysis knife, Janice McDrury (in Moleong, 2014) states that qualitative data analysis consists of the following steps: (1) examining the data and noting the key words and concepts within the data; (2) examining the key words and attempting to derive themes from those words. (3) recording the discovered 'models' and (4) predetermined coding.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. The Role of Political Parties in Implementing Political Education in the Indonesian Political System.

As part of a country's political infrastructure, political parties serve a variety of functions, one of which is to educate the general public about their rights and responsibilities in the life of the nation and state as one of the essential elements of an organizational social system. The organization must ensure that its members' responsibilities are well-defined. With a clear function for each member of the organization, their identities and work abilities will be shaped (Muhtada & Diniyanto, 2021; Rahayu et al., 2023).

The discussion then turned to political education. Law Number 2 of 2011 concerning Political Parties article 1 paragraph (4) defines political education as "the process of learning and understanding the rights, obligations, and responsibilities of every citizen in the life of the nation and state." The term political

education is synonymous with political formation or *bildung*. It is said that the essence of formation is to create political individuals who are conscious of their status and political position in society. It is referred to as *bildung* (education or self-formation) because the term refers to activities carried out personally with complete awareness and responsibility in order to form a person who is aware of his political position (Sutrisman, 2019).

Political education is the process of teaching the community about political norms, symbols, and values through multiple channels, including institutions, the government, and political parties. The necessity for political education to provide an overview of educating and complying with political rules, the correct political method, and healthy competition. The process of political education can be carried out through course activities, leadership training, seminars, as well as discussions and forum participation (Labolo & Ilham, 2015).

The following is an explanation provided by Alfian (1992): "Political education (in a stricter sense) as a form of effort to change the political education process of society so that they understand and really appreciate the values contained in an ideal political system to be built." The outcomes have the potential to result in new political behaviors and acts that not only contribute to the formation of a new culture but also promote an ideal political system. One of the recent reforms that the nation of Indonesia has implemented in order to build a political system that is democratic, vibrant, and efficient is a reform in the field of political education. These reforms are expected to generate beneficial outcomes in the political life of the nation.

Politics are not the exclusive domain of political leaders; rather, politics are the shared property of all citizens. The very existence of political education cultivates political cynicism as well as political intelligence with regard to various political events and all of their associated networks. This helps people understand their function and what their attitude should be in the political field, for example, in the function of political control, proving the current state of the political situation, and placing more emphasis on political activities that are consciously done and in accordance with the principles of true democracy (Sutrisman, 2019; Sumadinata et al., 2022). The preceding explanation leads one to the conclusion that political education is the process of teaching and providing an understanding of the rights and obligations as citizens in the life of the nation and state, which are related to rights and obligations in the political field as citizens. This can be deduced from the fact that political education is the process of teaching and providing an understanding of these topics.

As stated in Article 31 point (1) of Law Number 2 of 2011 Concerning Political Parties, the objectives of political parties to carry out political education for the public include: "a. Increasing awareness of the rights and obligations of the community in social, national, and state life; b. Increasing political participation and community initiatives in the life of society, nation, and state; and Increasing independence, maturity;" (Increasing awareness of the rights and obligations of the community in social, national, and state life; increasing political participation; increasing community.

Political education has a very important position in the effort to develop a society that is politically aware and willing to participate in politics in order to create an ideal political order in the life of the state and nation based on Pancasila values in coloring the Pancasila democratic political system (Sutrisman, 2019). In article 34 paragraph (3b) it is stated that political education carried out by political parties is related to matters namely: "a.) Deepening of the four pillars of the nation and state, namely Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution, Unity in Diversity, and the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, b.) Understanding of the rights and obligations of Indonesian citizens in building political ethics and culture, 3.) Regeneration of members of political parties in stages and continuously"

As a link between government and society, political parties have the opportunity to disseminate objective political information to citizens. They can play an important role in educating the public about relevant political issues, public policies, and the political decision-making processes that exist in the country. Political parties also have a role in promoting political participation among the people. Through the political activities they organize, such as campaigns, public meetings and political discussions, political parties can encourage citizens to be actively involved in the political process. They can open up space for inclusive political participation, invite people to contribute, and provide an understanding of the importance of political rights and obligations as citizens.

Political education carried out by political parties also aims to increase public understanding of democratic principles. Political parties can act as political educators, informing about democratic values, the principles of freedom of expression, elections and the separation of powers. In this way, political parties can help form a strong political awareness among the people, thereby encouraging more active and responsible participation in the political process in Indonesia. Political parties have an essential role in carrying out political education in Indonesia. Through their roles as liaisons, promoters of political participation, and political educators, political parties can play a key role in strengthening democratic

political systems, increasing public understanding of democratic principles, and encouraging active and inclusive political participation.

B. Challenges of Implementing Political Education Through Political Parties

In this study also reveals the existence of challenges and obstacles in carrying out effective political education by political parties. Some of the challenges faced include a lack of resources, lack of awareness of political parties on the importance of political education, and political polarization that affects efforts to make political education inclusive and non-biased.

a) Lack of Resources

One of the challenges faced by political parties in implementing political education is the lack of adequate resources. The resources needed to disseminate political information, organize political education activities, and involve citizens in the political process are key to an effective political education effort. However, many political parties in Indonesia still face limited resources, both in terms of finance, human resources, technology and infrastructure needed to organize comprehensive political education.

Lack of financial resources is one of the main obstacles faced by political parties. Sufficient funding is required to organize campaigns, public meetings and other political education activities. Political parties often face challenges in finding and allocating sufficient funds for political education, especially for political parties that are smaller and less supported by strong donors. This can hinder their ability to disseminate political messages and reach the public in an effective way.

In addition, the lack of trained human resources is also a challenge in political education by political parties. Organizing quality political education activities requires people who have knowledge and skills in politics as well as good communication skills. However, not all political parties have adequately trained staff in this regard. The lack of competent human resources in implementing political education can limit the effectiveness of such efforts.

b) Lack of awareness of political parties on the importance of political education

Another challenge faced by political parties in political education is the lack of awareness of the importance of political education itself. Even though political parties have an important role in shaping political awareness and public participation, there is still a lack of awareness among political parties of the urgency and benefits of political education.

Some political parties may focus more on practical political goals such as winning elections or gaining power, so political education is often a priority that receives less attention. Lack of awareness of the importance of political education can lead to minimal effort by political parties to provide resources, organize activities, and develop comprehensive political education programs.

In addition, the lack of awareness of the importance of political education can also result in narrow views or a limited approach in political education efforts. Political parties that are not fully aware of the importance of political education may tend to ignore broader aspects, such as building an understanding of democratic principles, pluralism values, or discussing complex political issues. As a result, political education provided by these political parties may be limited to narrow political goals or ideological orientations.

To overcome this challenge, it is important for political parties to raise awareness of the importance of political education as an integral part of their responsibilities as political leaders. Political education is not only a means to achieve short-term political goals, but also a long-term investment to build a society that is more informed, participatory and has a deep understanding of the political process. In raising awareness, political parties need to hold internal discussions, training, or seminars that raise issues and benefits of political education, and encourage participation in existing political education activities.

c) Political polarization affecting inclusive and non-biased political education efforts

Political polarity refers to the division of society into groups that are opposed to each other or have sharp differences in political views. In the context of high political polarization, political education efforts can be affected by partisan tendencies and unable to achieve the inclusivity and objectivity needed to build a balanced and deep political understanding among the people. Strong political polarization can create limitations in the delivery of objective political information. Political parties that are trapped in political polarization often tend to spread political messages that tend to be partial and not neutral. This can result in an imbalance of information and an approach that is not inclusive in political education. In their attempts to win support and gain political advantage, political parties can neglect a comprehensive and objective

understanding, and neglect the importance of providing a balanced understanding of various political viewpoints to the people.

In addition, political polarization can also affect inclusive political participation. In an atmosphere of high polarization, society tends to be closed to different political views. Political parties can get caught up in mobilizing their support base, rather than trying to achieve inclusivity and dialogue with groups with different political views. As a result, political education efforts can be limited to an existing support base, while groups with different political views tend to be ignored or shunned.

To overcome this challenge, political parties need to maintain independence and neutrality in political education efforts. They must commit to conveying objective and balanced political information to the public, without taking sides or setting aside certain political views. It is important for political parties to involve groups with different political views in their political education activities, encourage constructive dialogue and discussion, and help build a broader and deeper understanding of political issues.

4. CONCLUSION

Political parties are the backbone of a democratic society, and politics must keep up its role as a conduit for the will of the people. Parties in politics have not prioritized teaching citizens about democracy. Political education has a very important position in the effort to develop a society that is politically aware and willing to participate in politics in order to realize an ideal political order in the life of the state and nation based on Pancasila values that characterize the political system. Political parties can serve as a link between government and society, disseminate objective political information, promote political participation, and increase public understanding of democratic principles.

However, in carrying out political education, political parties are faced with a number of challenges. First, the lack of resources, Second, the lack of awareness of political parties on the importance of political education is another challenge, and Third, high political polarization can affect political education efforts that are inclusive and non-biased. In facing this challenge, political parties need to improve access to resources by seeking diversified funding sources, engaging skilled volunteers, and leveraging existing technology. Increasing the awareness of political parties on the importance of political education is also important, through discussions, training, and collaboration with educational institutions and civil society organizations. It is important for political parties to maintain neutrality, inclusivity and independence in political education efforts, as well as encourage dialogue and cooperation between groups with different political views. Thus, political parties can play a key role in building deep political understanding, increasing political participation, and strengthening a democratic political system in Indonesia.

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