

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE 2022 REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN BANDAR SETIA VILLAGE, PERCUT SEI TUAN DISTRICT, DELI SERDANG REGENCY, NORTH SUMATRA PROVINCE

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Abstract

The election of regional heads in Indonesia is a direct mandate of the reform movement in 1998. The election of regional heads is part of local democracy, which to realize good democracy, the implementation that can be carried out is the election of regional heads. This aims to channel the aspirations of the community to exercise their voting rights. The election of Regional Heads that is carried out directly can increase the participation of the community. However, it is not uncommon for many people to not care about the election of regional heads. Most of them are apathetic and do not find out about the future leader they will choose. This can happen because the prospective leaders promise a lot of things that can attract the attention of the public but are not implemented correctly. So that the community is disappointed and does not want to know anymore about how the leader will lead them in the future. This analysis is to find out the participation of the community in carrying out local democracy through the election of regional heads. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative research is an approach used to understand the phenomena experienced by the research subject, for example motivation, perception, action, and so on.

Keywords: Regional Head Elections, Local Democracy, Results



A. Introduction

Elections are an important part of democracy, because elections are a means used by the community to convey their participation. One example of local democracy carried out by the community is the Election to the Region. In this study, the author researches the participation of the people of Bandar Setia Village in conducting Village Elections in 2022. The purpose of this study is to evaluate how community participation in local democracy is implemented. The result of the participation carried out by the community in Bandar Setia Village is only a mere formality without knowing and seeing the vision and mission of the prospective leaders to be elected.

Democracy emphasizes the importance of elections as the main tool in the implementation of state life, elections are used in the process of changing rulers in an orderly and civilized⁸⁶ manner. The change of rulers through a democratic process will create better constitutional stability compared to the change that occurs through revolution or violence. In addition, general elections give broad expectations to the public to elect leaders according to their criteria. The holding of elections is also an indicator of the extent to which state life runs in accordance with the principles of people's sovereignty and democracy⁸⁷

The regional elections in Indonesia are a direct impact of the 1998 reforms. Considering the importance of community participation in choosing their leaders, the Regional Elections are a very important democratic moment in Indonesian society. As a method to uphold democratic principles, the regional elections not only aim to replace the old mechanism of electoral government and community participation, but also to achieve the long-term goal of comprehensively upholding the principles of participation, responsibility, and accountability⁸⁸.

Local democracy during the Old Order period was divided into two periods: parliamentary democracy and prime ministerial democracy. Both of these periods were

⁸⁶ Miriam Budiardjo, *Fundamentals of Political Science (Revised Edition)*, (Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2008)

⁸⁷ Ahmad Yani, "Structuring the Election of Village Heads in the Constitutional System in Indonesia", *Constitutional Journal*, Volume 19 Number 2, (June, 2022), 457

⁸⁸ Suyanto, "Pemilihan Kepala Daerah (Pilkada) dan Tantangan Demokrasi Lokal di Indonesia", *Jurnal Politik Indonesia Political Science Review*, 1(2), 2016, 212-230.

undermined by political parties and power holders⁸⁹. Eliseo Rocamora explained that the election of regional heads during the Old Order, especially between 1945 and 1959, was characterized by a centralized government, while the general public was influenced by the political process.⁹⁰

The application of regional heads in the provisions of the central government contained in Law No. 1 of 1957 and Law No. 18 of 1965, regional heads during the Old Order period were centralistic. Public participation in a democratic country is very important because it can determine the survival of a country, and people have the power to make political decisions, either directly or indirectly, which are constitutionally protected. Because democracy comes from the people, by the people, and for the people. To enable democracy to be carried out by the people, elections are a means for people to convey their aspirations and meet the needs of the people.

B. Method

The research conducted uses a qualitative descriptive methodology. Qualitative research is a type of qualitative research that is used to find out the phenomena carried out by the research subject, for example motivation, perception, action, and the like⁹¹. The type of data that this research is primary data in the form of in-depth questions and answers, and this research uses secondary data, namely documents from the research.

Where in collecting the population data we selected was the participation of the people of Bandar Setia Village in choosing the village head, while for the sample, namely the Bandar Setia Village Community that we interviewed with different professions, ages, and genders regarding their participation and criteria in choosing a candidate for

⁸⁹ Nuruddin Hady, "Reconstruction of the Local Democratic System in Indonesia", *Scientific Journal of Pancasila and Citizenship Education*, Volume 7 Number 2, (July 2022), 360.

⁹⁰ Lutfi Wahyudi, "Demokrasi Orde Baru Sebuah Catatan Bagi Masa Depan Demokrasi Di Indonesia", *Jurnal Sosial-Politika*, Volume 6 Nomor 11, (Juli 2005), 23-38.

⁹¹ Haris Herdiansyah, *Qualitative Research Methodology for Social Sciences*, (Jakarta: Salemba Humanika, 2010)

village head. Our research was conducted in Bandar Setia Village, Hamlets II, II, V, and VI, Percut Sei Tuan District, Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra Province.

C. Result and Discussion

In the research we conducted, there were 20 people we interviewed about the Pilkades in Bandar Setia Village, Percut Sei Tuan District, Deli Serdang Regency which we will use as a sample of our research. We have attached the 20 communities in the table.

No	Name	Age	Job
1.	Nuraidah	62 Tahun	Pedagang
2.	Gustina	53 Tahun	Pedagang
3.	Rizky Iskandar	45 Tahun	Petugas PLN
4.	Nursalamah	44 Tahun	Penjahit
5.	Supriani	37 Tahun	Ibu Rumah Tangga
6.	Wahono	55 Tahun	Tukang Bubut
7.	ZainaL Arifin	50 Tahun	Tukang Bangunan
8.	Saipul Azhar	45 Tahun	Satpam
9.	Ridho Anshori	29 Tahun	Guru
10.	Rahma Yani	39 Tahun	Asisten Rumah Tangga
11.	Sudarman	50 Tahun	Pekerja Bengkel Las
12.	Abdul Aziz	21 Tahun	Pekerja Doorsmer
13.	Ramlan	57 Tahun	Supir Angkot
14.	Figi Prasetyo	25 Tahun	Tukang Bengkel
15.	Indra	35 Tahun	Wirausaha
16.	Galuh	21 Tahun	Karyawan Apotik
17.	Hendra	23 Tahun	Tukang Pangkas
18.	Sri Sumiyati	43 Tahun	Pedagang
19.	Jaki	19 Tahun	Teknisi Elektronik
20.	Isma Ulusna	22 Tahun	Wirausaha

Tabel 1.1 Sample Data Table of Bandar Setia Village Community

The table above is data from the people we interviewed as our sample. The 20 samples are people in Bandar setia Village, Percut Sei Tuan District, Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra. The 20 community samples consisted of a wide range of occupations and also consisted of different age levels, and we interviewed the community based on their readiness and volunteerism towards us.

Politically, the village is considered a power structure that has certain authority because it is an element of state government. In the political context, the village is always explained as a legal entity by having the power to manage its own government⁹². By considering the concept of democracy and autonomy owned by villages in the political realm, people's participation in politics is realized through involvement in general elections. In accordance with Article 31 paragraphs (1) and (2), after the enactment of Law No. 6 of 2014 concerning Villages which replaced Law No. 32 of 2004. Now, the Pilkades are carried out jointly in all districts and cities.

According to the story, the process of electing the village head has been going on for quite a long time and has characteristics related to the democratic party of the local community with the principle of Luber Jurdil⁹³. Literally, participation means engagement. In a political situation, participation can be interpreted as community involvement in various political mechanisms⁹⁴. Community participation has a major role in the implementation of elections. In general, the public's interest in participating in the Pilkades is high because half of them do not feel intimidated or pressured by any party. However, for some residents, there is influence from a candidate and his support

⁹² Mashuri Maschab, *Village Government Politics in Indonesia*, (Yogyakarta: PolGov, 2013).

⁹³ Rudiadi, "Simultaneous Village Head Election in the Perspective of Village Autonomy (Case Study of the Implementation of the 2016 Simultaneous Village Head Election in Rokan Hilir Regency, Riau Province", *Law Reform Journal*, Volume 13 Number 1 (2017), 137.

⁹⁴ Irwan Nasution, "Analysis of the Level of Community Participation in the Election of the Head of Orahili Village, Pulau Batu District, South Nias Regency", *Journal of Government Science, Public Administration, Communication Sciences (JIPIKOM)*, 2(1) 2020, 46-52.

group by distributing clothes and stickers, and there is coercion from voters that can be seen during the election process ⁹⁵.

The election of the Village Head (pilkades), as one of the democratic mechanisms, is a starting point for the people of Bandar Setia in looking for leaders who are expected to bring progress in the village in various sectors. However, the attitude of the majority of the people of Bandar Setia towards the election shows an apathetic attitude, where they are indifferent to the process. This is due to various factors, including public disappointment with the political elite who failed to fulfill their promises during the campaign, lack of socialization about themselves and the programs they offer, therefore, citizens become hesitant to cast their votes and ultimately do not participate in the election process.

According to the results of the research conducted, the level of community participation in the village head election is not so high. Residents in Bandar Setia tend to consider the Pilkades as a mere formality, without paying attention to the candidates, visions, or programs offered to the local population. So far, the village head candidates have been less active and rarely interact in introducing themselves to the people of Bandar Setia, so the relationship between the village head candidates and the community is considered less close. As a result, some of the people of Bandar Setia do not participate in the Pilkades because of their lack of understanding of the village head candidates which makes them feel apathetic to the election process.

After collecting data on the people of Bandar Setia Village, it can be concluded that we took a sample of 20 people from different professions. Where the Pilkades held in the village ran well and smoothly, and many people participated in the Pilkades. However, there are some people who do not vote or are apathetic. And based on the results of the interviews we conducted, the community said that the candidates who want to serve as village heads are honest (not cheating) where they do not carry out dawn attacks in the form of distribution of basic necessities or money politics. And the vision and mission conveyed by the village head candidate who has now become the

⁹⁵ Agus Sofyan, "Partisipasi Masyarakat Dalam Pelaksanaan Pemilihan Kepala Desa (Pilkades) Di Desa Suka Mulya Kecamatan Rumpin Kabupaten Bogor Tahun 2019", *Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Administrasi Negara*, Volume 8 Nomor 1.

village head has been carried out well. Where the village head accommodates the aspirations of the community who want road repairs and the construction of ditches. However, there are some hamlets in Bandar Setia Village that have not been realized from the promised vision and mission.

D. Conclusion

From a political perspective, the non-participation of the community in the Pilkades as voters is considered a decrease in the role in democracy. However, from the community's point of view, refusing to participate in the village head election is considered a failure of the Medan City Government's policy towards the people of Bandar Setia Village. The Pilkades are seen as a component in political dynamics that aim to increase community involvement, with the hope that important changes will occur in rural areas. Through the Regional Elections, it is hoped that the community will be trained to care for their leaders, and become more aware of the identity, personality, and leadership qualities of the candidates they will choose for the future.

As a comparison and reference source for this study, previous studies that have relevance to the same topic are used. For example, a study entitled "Political Strategy in Village Management (Case Study of Village Heads in Pinggir District, Bengkalis Regency, Riau Province)" was conducted in 2017 at Universal Southeast Asia University. This study outlines Rumbin Sito's strategy to achieve success in the Tenggana Village Regional Election in 2017 successfully achieved its goals. The vision and mission conveyed by Rumbin Sito to the community is a good political tool for the empowerment of the people of Tenggana Village. The similarity between our research and the research received is the exploration of political strategies applied by village heads in facing the Pilkades. However, the difference lies in the location or region that is the focus of the research.

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