

Constraints for Persons with Disabilities in Organizing the 2019 Concurrent Election in Bone Regency

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ABSTRACT

The participation of voters with disabilities is very low in the Pemilukada in Indonesia, they even tend to vote not to use their voting rights. This study aims to describe the role of the General Election Commission (KPU) of Bone Regency in providing information about the stages and implementation of elections, as well as providing election accessibility to persons with disabilities. The stages of the research method, starting from theoretical studies and empirical studies, preparation of proposals, testing the validity and reliability of instruments, collecting data, analysis, and discussion. The data analysis used was qualitative. In this study a research method design has been prepared, a sampling design, data collection, and analysis have been prepared, the adequacy and completeness of the data have been determined, there are a technical evaluation and prediction of results, scenarios, and alternatives for data completeness have been prepared and the research and development design has been completed (complete). The results of the study showed that the socialization carried out by the general election commission of Bone Regency had been running but was not optimal. The obstacle of the General Election Commission of Bone Regency is that the data on voters with disabilities used is not the most recent. The services provided to persons with disabilities have been fulfilled but have not been maximized.

Keywords: election, disability, General Election Commission

INTRODUCTION

Election as a democratic party can ideally be enjoyed and followed by all people without exception (Coughlin, 2008; Lewis-Beck, 2005; Niswaty, 2014). Discrimination against a group is a flaw of democracy (Kono, 2008; Stoyanov et al., 2019). One of them, from election to election, still has not been able to provide optimal rights for persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities, namely any person who has physical and/or mental disabilities, which can interfere or constitute an obstacle and obstacle to carrying out proper activities. (Bickenbach, 2011; Brown, 2018; Palusci et al., 2017). Elections that are friendly to the fulfillment of disability rights are part of the application of democratic values. Persons with disabilities have the right to easily, comfortably, and safely participate in elections (Harpur, 2010; Schur et al., 2017).

The election is a mechanism for selecting leaders who will occupy certain strategic political positions in formal political institutions (Niswaty, 2013), namely the executive and legislative bodies at the central and regional levels. Indonesia as a democratic country makes elections a process of changing power in a peaceful and polite manner which is carried out

periodically in accordance with the principles outlined by the constitution (Coughlin, 2008; Niswaty, 2013). The principles in general elections that are by the constitution include the principle that the constitutional life of the people (democracy) is characterized by every citizen having the right to actively participate in every state decision-making process.

The representation aspect has become an issue that has been sticking out quite recently. This started with the emergence of issues of gender representation, gender equality, and the role of gender equality in politics. This minority problem then raises the problem of representation of people with disabilities who have been considered a "third-class" community group. Of course, the emergence of these representational problems is the result of the patriarchal social structure that has long been entrenched in the public view.

The participation of voters with disabilities is very low in the Pemilukada in Indonesia, and they even tend to choose not to use their right to vote which in studies on elections is called a Voter Turnout. As a result, regional elections have not been able to strengthen local democracy. If it is mapped, Golput can be divided into three typologies, namely Ideological Golput, Political Golput, and Pragmatic Golput. Voters with disabilities can also be categorized into these three typologies because they are voters in general, the only difference is that they have certain physical limitations.

The regional General Election Commission is given the authority to hold the implementation of the Election for DPR, DPD, and DPRD (Legislative Elections) according to the purpose of Law No.8 of 2012 on General Elections. with disabilities can exercise their voting rights without discrimination. However, in reality, it has not been able to reach all voters with disabilities. Based on this, the General Election Commission of Bone Regency seeks to increase its role in the dissemination of the 2019 general election to persons with disabilities.

METHOD

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach. The use of the descriptive method is based on the assumption that this research intends to obtain information or images actually and factually on social phenomena, in the sense that the research focuses on solving problems that occur in the present, namely obtaining a real picture of the role of the KPU in the socialization of elections to persons with disabilities.

The research instrument in this research is the researcher himself, the instrument or tool in question is from the beginning to the end of the study, the researcher himself is fully functional or the researcher himself is actively involved in the research being carried out, starting from determining the focus of the problem, data sources for data analysis, to conclude. Also, in this qualitative research, the researcher must be able to act as the researcher himself and as an evaluator. This study uses a human instrument. In this qualitative data analysis technique, there are three components of data analysis used in this study, namely based on Miles and Huberman (Arhas & Suprianto, 2020) data reduction, data presentation, and verification

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The election is a mechanism for selecting leaders who will occupy certain strategic political positions in formal political institutions, namely the executive and legislative bodies at the central and regional levels. Indonesia as a democratic country makes elections a process of changing power peacefully and politely which is carried out periodically by the principles

outlined by the constitution. The principles in general elections that are by the constitution include the principle that the constitutional life of the people (democracy) is characterized by every citizen having the right to actively participate in every state decision-making process.

Limitations of Outreach for Persons with Disabilities

Efforts to fulfill the political rights of persons with disabilities are not only carried out based on the efforts of the Regional General Election Commission Bone program but also based on aspects of the legal framework and participation of related external parties. In general, Regional General Election Commission Bone has implemented several mechanisms in providing accommodation to voters with disabilities in Bone Regency and received a good response from the Disabled Persons' Organization there. From the results of this study, it was found that efforts to fulfill the political rights of voters with disabilities were still not optimal in several electoral stages.

The first obstacle is the stages of the preparation and determination of the voter list. At this stage, there are still many people with disabilities who are not listed on the voter list. On the other hand, the Regional General Election Commission has tried to make the maximum possible appeal to the implementers in the field, namely Petugas Pemutakhiran Data Pemilih to record data door to door to voters, including data on voters with disabilities. However, in its application, there are still many negligences made by officers in the field regarding this mechanism. Some of the factors are the lack of strict regulations and instructions governing data collection on voters with disabilities and weak monitoring mechanisms for the stages of voter list preparation. On the other hand, the skepticism that has developed in society, which is the impact of the strong understanding of medical perspectives in society, also affects the number of voters with disabilities who are not listed on the voter list.

The socialization carried out by the regional General Election Commission of Bone Regency has been running but has not been maximized. This lack of maximum can be caused by several factors such as the availability of human resources from the Regional General Election Commission itself so that the handling involves volunteers. In addition, the time for the implementation of socialization was very narrow with the holding of elections. Bone Election Commission needs to make efforts to socialize well in advance, a year or two before the election is held in order to reach remote areas. In addition, this socialization is also a form of political education for the public, especially persons with disabilities, so that those who have so far not been accessible can get information about elections.

Then at this stage of socialization and campaigning, efforts to fulfill political rights for persons with disabilities can be said to be quite weak. The efforts of the Regional General Election Commission in Bone Regency by inviting disability organizations did open access to information for persons with disabilities who were active in the community. But on the other hand, the population of persons with disabilities outside the community is still much larger and is not touched by access to electoral information. In addition, efforts to educate voters for persons with disabilities are still quite weak, not reaching people outside the community.

The obstacles to optimizing the implementation of the socialization stages are mainly due to limited costs in the budget for implementing the stages. This condition is caused by the absence of special instructions and special budget posts for voters with disabilities, both due to limited funds. In Bone Regency, the budget for the implementation of outreach to voters with

disabilities and other segments is not separated into each segment but is combined in the same series of events.

The things that are taken into consideration are the limited budget for voters with disabilities and the majority of bureaucrats still think that it is “expensive” to pay for supporting facilities and infrastructure in socialization activities, both physical and non-physical. Several solutions have been taken by the General Election Commission of Bone Regency by inviting communities with disabilities and their management and therapists to participate in the series of outreach activities.

In other mechanisms, the KPU Kabupaten Bone did not really optimize the use of mechanisms other than the socialization of face-to-face communication. When compared with the implementation of socialization in other areas at the same stage, some of them were able to optimize the use of social media access and other socialization media such as posters, billboards, and banners posted in several strategic places. Whereas in Bone Regency itself, the use of social media access such as Facebook, Instagram, or other platforms in providing socialization materials tends to be less used. In addition, the use of other socialization materials such as pamphlets and posters is limited to installation only in certain places such as the village hall, and bulletin boards in certain public places.

Inaccurate Data on Persons with Disabilities

Another thing that contributes greatly to the difficulty of socializing persons with disabilities. The availability of inaccurate data on persons with disabilities is an obstacle faced by the General Election Commission of Bone Regency in fulfilling the voting rights of persons with disabilities.

The obstacle of the General Election Commission of Bone Regency is that the data on voters with disabilities used is not the most recent data. This makes many people with disabilities not yet recorded. The role of the Regional Government of Bone Regency is also needed to collect data so that there are new, accurate data on persons with disabilities, making it easier for the Bone Election Commission to collect data on voters with disabilities. This inaccurate and up-to-date data is of course related to the socialization conducted by the General Election Commission. Incomplete data makes the form of socialization carried out by the General Election Commission not optimal.

Obstacles to Existing Facilities at the Polling Station

Facilities or services are the biggest obstacles in fulfilling the right to vote because there is no unavailability of tools at the polling station for people with disabilities. The General Election Commission of Bone Regency has made efforts to provide services to persons with disabilities, but even so, it is still not optimal.

Regarding the facilities and infrastructure in question, the General Election Commission of Bone Regency has ensured that the place used must be a place that is easily accessible for voters with disabilities, including the entrance to a place with disabilities that is not ladder / flat, an easily accessible entrance for wheelchair users for people with disabilities. , and so forth. Unfortunately, other physical facilities, such as a separate pamphlet for voters with visual impairments, are not provided. Even so, the General Election Commission of Bone Regency considers that the audio explanation delivered by the general election organizers at each the polling station is sufficient to accommodate blind voters.

Services have been provided such as the provision of embossed braille letters for the blind. However, the provision of braille aids has not been evenly prepared in each polling station. Even though this tool is very helpful for visually impaired disabilities in giving their voting rights. In addition, persons with other disabilities have not or have not been helped by assistance such as braille letters, so it is necessary to update existing data on persons with disabilities and the needs that need to be provided at each polling station.

In fulfilling the time of voting, the General Election Commission of Bone Regency has made quite an effective effort with physical facilitation at the polling stations and good services to persons with disabilities. Even so, there are still some shortcomings, such as the table for the voting booth is still too high and there are still some people with disabilities who are not visited home due to the negligence of officers. These existing constraints are not only due to bureaucratic elements, but also regulatory aspects. With many overlaps in electoral regulations and legal uncertainty, the focus on the community does not pay much attention to aspects of fulfilling disability suffrage. From the substance of this regulation, it can be concluded that the government has not given much urgency to the fulfillment of the political rights of persons with disabilities.

The services provided to persons with disabilities have been fulfilled but have not been maximized. The provision of these services can be seen from the uneven or inadequate braille aids at each polling station. General Election Commission Bone Regency as the election organizer at least provides these tools so that people with disabilities can give their voting rights.

Bone Regency General Election Commission has provided good facilities or services to him in the 2019 general election. Where people with visual impairments get braille ballot papers, they are not yet too even. As he said and also experienced not only in Bone Regency, the provision of facilities for blind people has indeed been done but has not been maximized. Another thing that many General Election Commission has not done is to provide facilities or needs for persons with other disabilities such as deaf people who need sign language assistance so that they no longer need assistance in general elections.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study, it was found that the socialization carried out by the KPU of Bone Regency had been running but was not optimal. This lack of maximum can be caused by several factors such as the availability of human resources from the General Election Commission itself so that the handling involves volunteers. The obstacle of the General Election Commission of Bone Regency is that the data on voters with disabilities used is not the most recent data. This makes many people with disabilities not yet recorded. The services provided to persons with disabilities are sufficiently fulfilled but not maximized.

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