

The Role of Students in Guarding the Constitution and Building Awareness and Optimism of Legal Politics

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Abstract: *Students play professional and appropriate roles in society and education as intellectuals and value-added members of society. The purpose of this study is to identify the role of students in protecting the constitution and the role of students in building socio-political awareness and optimism. The research method used in this study is theoretical research, using conceptual methods and legal methods. In preparing this article, the author used Google Scholar to put library resources online. The conclusion of this study is that upholding the Constitution is not only the task of the Constitutional Court or a few special individuals and institutions, but also of students. Therefore, students must not only play the role of defenders of the Constitution, but also integrate the character of young intellectuals. This oversight may be accomplished in a variety of ways, including through student submission of judicial reports. How important it is for students to work to build public trust in politics. One of the most serious problems for our country and nation today is the issue of public trust in politics.*

Keywords: *Constitution, Political Optimism, Legal Politics*

INTRODUCTION

It is undeniable that students play the role of intellectual candidates and social actors who continue to contribute to changing the path of the Indonesian nation. The Sukarno government overthrew the old order regime and the 1966 student movement against the "Three People's Demands" (Tritura). The role of students is also reflected in the measures taken against the problems of New Order government, abuse of power, disregard for human rights and economic expansion in social life. The movement gained momentum through the Student Association, also known as DEMA, which had a significant impact on achieving national unity among students and was supported by campus organizations.

Indonesian youth are the backbone of the country. At the national level, this is why youth are both driving forces and intellectuals. Youth has always played a role in the dynamics of the country, from the independence era till today. Students are one of the potential units owned by teenagers. Students are expected to become scholars who, as participants in higher education, can lead the country in a better, more progressive direction. As a result, the value of community service, which represents social value, is included in the three higher education laws.

Students play professional and appropriate roles in society and education as intellectuals and value-added members of society. Furthermore, the role of students is not limited to subject-

related learning activities such as on campus, in the library, and online. Students are not high school students accidentally trapped on campus.

In the implementation of civic education for citizens, students are an important factor that can help the government. As Purnama points out, students themselves play multiple roles: they are agents of change, providers and guardians of value. As resilient people in the future, students play the role of iron stock. It is the role of students as guardians of change as guardians of the integrity of the values that exist in society. Students as agents of social change, the role of students as agents of change.

Students are considered capable of developing ideas for the advancement of education for the Indonesian nation. In order for students to become idealists for educational progress, the first thing to do is to care about education in Indonesia and not just be silent. Students need to develop a focus on nation-building through education so that they can later think about how to advance education in Indonesia. However, sometimes, the thinking of a student who is still stained with the thick soul of his youth is compulsive and instantaneous, that is, his will must be followed at this time. Some are even cruel. For example, students did not follow prescribed procedures and held demonstrations and clashed with government officials. This is also a problem that needs to be solved with students so that their educational concepts can be well implemented. Well, you also need to consider the good and the bad. What matters most is the prospect of success of the idea conveyed. This means we have a target of how successful the proposed idea would be if it were implemented. So that the proposed ideas are full of careful calculations, making the ideas sufficiently convincing.

On the other hand, the Constitution, as the country's supreme law, has a strategic position as a national guideline. The emergence of the Constitutional Court also demonstrates the urgency of the Constitution as a political document of Indonesian law. Protecting the Constitution is important. This is partly because the Constitution contains human rights protections and guarantees. For example, Chapter 11A specifies human rights. From the right to life to basic rights such as the right to communication, the constitution contains many rights. This is one of the reasons why the Constitution must be upheld. Protecting the Constitution is not only the task of the Constitutional Court or a very small number of people and specialized agencies, but also of students.

Therefore, given the nature of young intellectuals, students must assume the role of defenders of the Constitution. In the past, demonstrations were often a first resort for students to achieve their goals, but today they may no longer be the solution. The students' tough diplomacy actually had the opposite effect on society. Anarchism rooted in the student

movement also poses a serious threat in the eyes of society, so students must find another way to solve any national problem. These approaches include soft diplomacy, which emphasizes cooperative diplomacy and solution diplomacy.

There are at least two ways to guide students to defend the Constitution, including direct maintenance and indirect maintenance. Directly maintaining the possibility of unconstitutional conduct of the state, whether real or legal, has a repressive control function. This cooperation can be accomplished in a variety of ways, including the student filing for judicial review.

Indirect control has a preventive function. Socialization, education, and dealing with constitutional issues (such as the implementation of people's rights) are a form of indirect student support. This escort actually focuses more on education and long-term companionship. Therefore, today's student movement cannot only be oriented towards secular issues, but must be more visionary, that is, constitutional. This is indeed logical given the urgency of constitutional protection and the strategic role that Indonesian students play in achieving a better and more worthy country.

Students play an important role in upholding the Constitution and raising awareness and optimism about the nation's legal policies. They are not only a reflection of the future but also an important pillar in maintaining democratic balance. As agents of change, students have a moral responsibility to strengthen the country's constitutional foundations and ensure that democratic values are consistently upheld.

Students are more than passive bystanders when it comes to constitutional protections. They play an active role in monitoring government policies and actions and detecting violations of constitutional principles. Student engagement in public policy analysis also plays an important role in ensuring that governments comply with established legal frameworks.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

A theoretical framework is a framework of ideas, theories, or papers about a case or problem that serves as a comparison material and a theoretical guide for acceptance or rejection. Political approach includes a coherent understanding between goal-oriented, rational, economic and pragmatic, and value-oriented approaches. Lawrence M. Friedman believes that the effectiveness and success of law enforcement depends on three (three) elements of the legal system, namely: legal structure (legal structure), legal substance (legal content), and legal culture (legal culture). Legal structure is the law enforcement agency, legal substance includes legislation, and legal culture is the living law adopted by society. The structure of a legal system includes: the number and size of courts, the jurisdiction of the courts (including the types of cases they have jurisdiction to hear), and the procedures for appeals from one court to another.

Structure also means how the legislature is organized, what the president can and cannot do, what procedures the police follow, and so on.

RESEARCH METHODS

In the research, the author adopted the method of exploring statutory legal principles and then conducting legal systematic research to understand subjective laws, obligations and legal events in the law. In the context of the research of the type of normative research carried out by the author, the research methodology carried out by the author is based on statutory and conceptual methods. The analysis of the collected legal materials is to determine the legal facts based on the formulation of the problem, and then analyze it through one of the methods, that is, the method of interpreting legal norms based on written principles. Law relates to legal facts to determine the formulation of a problem and is accompanied by a critical description based on a systematic and rule-ordered legal theory that describes legally sanctioned events.

All collected data undergoes a process of analysis, reduction (selecting relevant data and eliminating unnecessary data), classification, interpretation (establishing correlations between laws and regulations) and drawing conclusions. Data analysis activities were carried out using descriptive qualitative methods through legal methods, analytical methods and normative comparative methods. The analysis of the research material used was qualitative. Qualitative analysis refers to the qualitative description of data in the form of regular, sequential, logical, non-overlapping, and effective sentences to facilitate data interpretation and understanding of analysis results.

This study includes normative legal research, so the legal materials used are primary, secondary and tertiary legal materials. Primary legal materials refer to legal materials that are authoritative or authoritative, including the legal sources of the rules on corruption crimes in various countries (the 1945 Constitution, laws and regulations on corruption crimes in various countries, comparison). Secondary legal materials are legal materials that explain primary legal materials, including: documents, articles, journals, research reports, etc. related to this research topic. The research conclusions were reached using a systematic interpretive approach by interpreting a piece of legislation related to the legal release of prisoners and then linking it to other legal products in order to conduct a qualitative analysis of the data collected to arrive at the conclusions painting.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Constitutional Safeguards

Students are a unique part of society. Although the numbers are small, history shows that the vitality of this country cannot be separated from the role of students. Although the times are constantly advancing and changing, the hearts of students have never changed, that is, their spirit and idealism. Even in the history of national struggles, student movements have often been the forerunners of national struggles, as can be seen from the pages of Indonesian history.

If we look at the growing reality, the recent student movement is also inseparable from its lofty ideals of fighting for the aspirations of the people. That's because our trusted representatives haven't been fully committed to fighting for those aspirations lately. A Cirus Surveyor Group survey showed that 47.9% of respondents believed that members of the House of Representatives (DPR) did not enact laws that benefited the people between 2009 and 2014. Even at the regional level, some 3,143 problematic local regulations were repealed by the government. These data show that the problem of government policies that are not friendly to the people cannot be ignored. Governments often only make political promises during campaigns, and then forget about their promises or even succumb to society after being elected. If this situation continues, it will certainly be very dangerous for the existence of Indonesian democracy.

Based on the potential and possibilities students have as intellectuals, they must possess beliefs and ideas that should not be determined by anyone other than the interests of the people. Therefore, the central position of students must be used to fight for the people and/or balance the interests between both parties (the government and the people).

In order to achieve a clean and accountable government, social supervision and monitoring are necessary to prevent government corruption. The public is given the right to know everything related to governance. 2 Of course, this is not only to inform the public, but also to achieve a democracy in which all people participate.

The passage of Law No. 14/2008 on Disclosure of Public Information (UU KIP) is an important milestone in the development of democracy in Indonesia. As a Freedom of Information Act, the Act regulates the fulfillment of information needs in the public interest. The existence of UU KIP also confirms that public information disclosure is not only part of universal human rights, but also a constitutional right provided for in Section 28F of the Second Amendment to the 1945 Constitution. Many parties hope that the arrival of UU KIP can promote an atmosphere of broad openness at all levels. Public information disclosure is

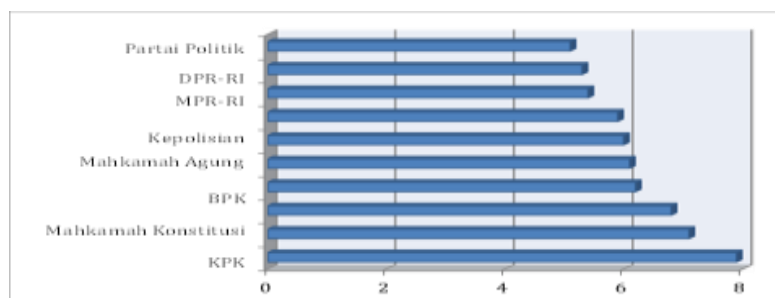
considered an important means to optimize public supervision of state administration and other public agency activities involving public interests. James Madison, one of the drafters of the U.S. Constitution, even mentioned that disclosure of information is an absolute prerequisite for democracy, which also means the exercise of limited power under public control.

Information disclosure provides people with opportunities to participate in various public actions. This condition also promotes the establishment of integrity and good governance, as governments and public institutions are obliged to provide comprehensive information on their activities in an open, transparent and accountable manner. However, while placing high hopes, there are also some concerns and doubts about the effectiveness of UU-KIP implementation. This is because there are many laws and regulations that are democratic in nature, but their implementation runs counter to the spirit of democracy. In this context, the definition of counterproductive is when the democracy we dream of does not materialize into reality. For example:

1. Insufficient disclosure of public information by public institutions themselves
2. Public participation is often unwilling to understand
3. The public is unaware of the forum they seek to seek grievances.

The Information Commissioner is not only a normative requirement of UU-KIP but also an implementer capable of effectively implementing the Freedom of Information Act. The question is, what is the direction and positioning of the Information Committee, taking public information disclosure as one of the key factors to promote governance creation. Advocacy as we understand it is a systematic attempt to provide students with the understanding that will enable them to become the engines of society, criticizing and influencing policies that are perceived to be detrimental to the interests of the people. In addition, this event also aims to highlight students' fighting spirit to strengthen students' role as agents of change.

2. Community Political Optimism



Tabel 1. Optimisme Terhadap Lembaga Negara

The Indonesian Political Parameters Survey shows that public confidence in improving the performance of political parties is lowest. Optimism was only 5.1 on a scale of 0-10. The lower the value, the lower the public confidence in improving agency performance. Political

parties have a lower status than the House of Representatives (DPR) and the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR). The optimism scores of the two institutions were 5.3 and 5.4 respectively. Meanwhile, the Indonesian National Army (TNI) had the highest level of optimism at 7.9. The TNI's status is higher than that of the presidential agency and the Anti-Corruption Commission (KPK), whose optimism levels are 7.1 and 6.8 respectively. Indonesian Political Parameters conducted a random survey of 1,200 respondents in 34 provinces from February 3 to 8, 2021. The survey has a margin of error of $\pm 2.9\%$ and a confidence level of 95%.

At this point, it is clear that the public's perception of experience as the primary indicator of assessing a person's ability is weak and unfounded. Experience is important, but what the public often overlooks is that the lack of age can be replaced in this century by young people with different cognitive acceleration and strong mobility. Two characteristics of the current era. The narrative of this era is the narrative of youth. We are witnessing a global leadership shift toward the broadest possible political participation of young people.

There is a widespread public saturation of old political practices and behaviors that are often corrupt and conservative, often exhibited by older politicians. Interestingly, on the other hand, there is also an encouraging phenomenon of a political paradigm shift among young people towards a more progressive and positive life. It is characterized by increased awareness of and concern for public issues. Today's young people are actively encouraged to intervene and engage critically in all national political issues. This change in the political paradigm of young people has had a positive impact on political relations and the democratic climate. Their political character and skin color are different compared to other countries.

The political nature of the older generations, as well as their capabilities and access to technology, makes the political presence and participation of today's young people fully representative of the aspirations of the zeitgeist calling for change. It fully reflects the desire of the spirit of the times to demand change. Justin Trudeau, Emmanuel Marcon, and Obama are some examples of leaders who embody this spirit. There is also Luo Guancong, a pro-democracy activist from Hong Kong who was elected as a member of Parliament in the 2016 election at the age of 23. In Malaysia, 25-year-old Syed Saddiq was recently appointed as Youth Affairs and Sports Minister in Mahathir Mohamad's cabinet. If we look at the current population situation in Indonesia, the proportion of the population is relatively young, then it is no exaggeration to say that this phenomenon of change will also occur in our country. In addition, political participation among young people in Indonesia has increased recently.

Young people are beginning to express their political ambitions in more open, creative and diverse ways. Young people's moral political movements are increasingly emerging through solid communities and volunteers geared toward real national issues. In practical politics, many political parties also provide excellent opportunities to train potential young people for strategic political roles. Additionally, these parties have begun involving young people heavily in their election campaigns.

While these efforts still appear to be limited to tactics that appeal to the younger voter market, they are enough to inspire optimism and hope by encouraging policy improvements and monitoring various stalled Democratic agendas. This optimism also inspires us to reiterate that youth are indeed an important part and pillar of the country's future. Furthermore, the concept of youth in the current context is an important aspect in welcoming the demographic dividend of our younger generation in the future.

It is important to remember that 2020-2035 will be the peak years of Indonesia's demographic dividend. During this period, Indonesia's population was dominated by the productive age group. However, only if this demographic dividend is managed properly and conscientiously can it bring benefits and make a huge contribution to the realization of national well-being. This means that Indonesia's productive age groups must be given open space and properly empowered in the future. Otherwise, the demographic dividend we are looking forward to will only become a burden to the country and a demographic disaster. This demographic change therefore requires the development of a comprehensive and sustainable youth agenda and policies.

It is within this framework that youth policy narratives find their contextual urgency. Political participation of young people involves not only voting in all political elections but also campaigning for the youth agenda through active participation in politics. Engaging youth in politics is a strategic initiative to ensure that any youth agenda is considered in a sustainable way.

On the contrary, the lack of young people will only become Indonesia's biggest weakness in future development. If this optimism becomes our shared belief, then I believe we won't have to wait long for this zeitgeist to translate into our politics. Of course, fighting for the youth agenda through political work is not an easy task, especially when the old political elite sees it as a threat. Our top priority is to integrate the scattered power of young people into a unified collective force.

3. The role of students in Indonesian legal policy

The role of students in Indonesian legal policy is important in safeguarding democracy, promoting justice, and strengthening the country's legal system. As agents of change, students play a vital role in multiple aspects of Indonesian legal policy. First, students are often at the forefront of expressing community desires for legislative and public policy changes. They advocate for key issues related to justice, human rights, the environment and law enforcement that are fair to all citizens. 7Through demonstrations, social movements or public advocacy, students help shape public opinion and demand change.

Secondly, it is the students' job to monitor the government's legal policies. They provide critical analysis of proposed or implemented policies, emphasizing their potential impact on social justice, individual rights, or compatibility with the country's constitution. Students are often the watchdog when it comes to uncovering potential violations of the law or attempts to undermine a fair and just legal system. In addition, the educational role of students in raising awareness of legal policies is also very important. They become a source of knowledge and information for society about the rights and responsibilities contained in the legal system. Through seminars, discussions, or other educational programs, students deepen understanding of the important role of the law in safeguarding social justice and inspire active participation in political and legal processes.

Therefore, students play an important role in safeguarding Indonesian legal policies, not only as critics of legal policies or their implementation, but also as driving forces in raising awareness of the importance of fair, democratic and inclusive laws at all levels of society. Their role is crucial in strengthening Indonesia's solid legal foundation for justice and democratic sustainability.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The protection of the Constitution is not only the responsibility of the Constitutional Court or a small number of people and specialized agencies, but also the responsibility of students. Therefore, given the nature of young intellectuals, students must assume the role of defenders of the Constitution. This guardianship can be exercised in a number of ways, including by the student seeking judicial review. Indirect monitoring has a preventive function. Socialization, education, and dealing with constitutional issues (such as the implementation of people's rights) are a form of indirect student support. This escort actually focuses more on education and long-term companionship. How important it is for students to work to build public trust in politics. One of the most serious problems in our country and nation today is the issue of public trust in politics. Some people think politics is insignificant, or even say it is

dirty, because people only see politics as they are through the political process, the conflicts and scandals committed by elected officials. Politics is seen as a disruption and disharmony in the country, and as an outlet for incorrect politicians. Therefore, students should play a role in building a healthy political system and creating a government with credibility and integrity.

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