

## **PARTICIPATION AND POLITICAL DOMINATION PARTIES IN INDONESIA REFORMATION ERA**

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**ABSTRACT:** *The presence of parties in the political system is very decisive order of politics that shows the awareness and positive response of society to participation development. In this context political parties have a 'strategic role' as catalysts and independent mediators between government [state organizers] and their citizens. However, Indonesia's law political reforms show that political parties have 'failed' to 'play' the role. Is it true that the party failed? To answer this study the aim [i]. Describes the relationship of political parties with people's political participation. [ii]. Describes the reality of the role of the party in building its citizen's participation between ideal desires and the reality of politics. [iii] Describe the strategic formulation of the role of the [function] of the party as an effort to increase people's participation. The results of this study indicate that [i] The relationship of political parties to the political participation of the community depends [determinant] on the behavior of party politicians [actors] and their role in national and local politics. [ii]. Experience during law political reform shows that the party's ideal will contradict the reality of its role in building people's political participation. Party dominance in all areas of state life reflects the party's 'dominance' with a negative character. This reality is what causes the level of confidence of people about party 'relative' continues to decline. So direct participation also decreases. [iii]. The study finds that the strategic formulation of party roles as an effort to increase people's participation lies in the 'political education pattern' of the party both internally [regeneration through political recruitment] and external efforts to the people of its constituents. 'Failure' in the framework of obedience is a crucial part of political education that determines the level of trust of the people [of society] to his party.*

**KEYWORDS:** Party Domination, People's Political Participation and Political Education

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### **INTRODUCTION**

This study examines the reality of political life in Indonesia which is dominated by political parties. The presence of political parties extended to all state institutions. This paper is an attempt to clarify the presence of political parties, especially the era of reforms that practice a 'very liberal' direct democracy. In this context the party of its existence is judged to have penetrated into all lines of state life from executive [state government], legislative [representative judicial institutions].

Even political parties also dominate the maenstream media whose presence in this reformation era as a social control [senior party leader who controls the media] as the fourth pillar of democracy other than executive, legislative and judicative. Observing this reality shows that the role party really has mastered all the lines of life. This is proving if the party is the owner of the 'majority rule' [executive, legislative, judicial and media] in this 'super liberal' democracy.

The phenomenon of party domination in Indonesia is motivated by the reality of law political reform since the reform of the 1945 Constitution [has been amended four times] during the 1999-2004 parliamentary period. This amendment changed the landscape that state power [from authoritarian leadership] shifted toward institutional parties. A 'very liberal' democracy in the choice of the political system [through the 1999 election] has transformed many aspects of Indonesian state relations such as: [1] Restricting Presidential Powers from 'Unlimited' to limited (2nd period); [2] The Parliament consists of the House of Representatives (DPR) and the Regional Representatives Council (DPD). [3] All members of parliament are elected through an election which implies an end to the appointment of members of the TNI/Polri and representatives of class representatives as members of parliament. [4] Strengthening 'People's Democracy' [direct presidential election] which impacts on local head election [Governor, Regent and Mayor] directly in the region. [5] The presence multiparty system. [6]. Establishment of an independent election organizer free of government influence. [7] The establishment of the Constitutional Court [MK] which has the authority of Judicial Review (Meyer, 2012) and (Albintani, 2015).

Based on the seven changes caused by the amendment process in the very fast [four years], increasingly proves that the existence of the party in the era of legal political reform shows a very extraordinary increase. The reform era led to a shift of power from the personal cover of the [ideals] leading to an institutional [political party] 'oligarchical' [power to a group of people] (Robinson and Hadiz, 2004).

Based on the various realities of dominant power, this paper aims for, [i]. Describes the relationship of political parties with people's political participation. [ii]. Describe the reality of the role of the party in the framework of building people's participation between their ideal desires and their politics reality. [iii]. Explains the strategic formulation of party roles as an effort to increase people's participation.

### **Party relations and political participation**

In an effort to answer the three objectives of this study, it first needs to clarify some related concepts, roles, political parties and political participation. First, about the role concept. The role, according to the definition many experts have mentioned is the dynamic aspect of position or status (Suhardono, 1994). A person exercising rights and obligations means having a role. In reality, this role is difficult to the meaning and define. Sometimes the role is also paired with the function. Roles and status can not be separated. There are no roles without position or status, so there is no status without a role (Bauer, 2003). The role of this study, therefore, is also the function of the party played by the active actors involved in it. The active actors include political party boards at national and local level.

Once the role is understood, the meaning of political parties is also important to be explained and known. In various literatures it is explained that in general political parties are defined as a group whose members have the same orientation, values, and ideals. The group's aim is to gain political power and seize the political position [usually by constitutional means] to implement its programs (Budiardjo, 2008) and (Amal, 1996).

While based on the law [in formal legal sense], political parties are defined as national organizations and formed by a group of Indonesian citizens voluntarily on the basis of equality of will and ideals to fight for and defend the political interests of members, society, nation and state, and maintaining the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia [NKRI]

based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution [UUD 1945] of the State of the Republic of Indonesia [Article 1 Paragraph 1 of Law No.2 Year 2011].

Further political participation is interpreted as the attitude of individuals or groups or organizations of citizens who are involved or participate in the achievement of goals and can affect the lives of the community. Based on this understanding, such activities include measures such as voting in elections, attending general meetings, becoming members of a party or interest group, establishing contacts with government officials or members of parliament (Budiardjo, 2008) and (Surbakti, 1999).

Based on the three concepts, the results of this study found that the relation of the role of political parties to political participation into the 'three position models' of argumentation. First, the model of party domination. In this connection, the dominant party power causes the civil society to become weak [low participation]. Second, the power balance model. In this position the relationship model makes a balanced force between political parties and civil society [high participation]. Third, a strong civil society model. This model is an ideal wish that in the election language of the leader is known as the adagium 'an intelligent society will produce qualified leaders' [high participation, or otherwise high-low].

### **Role of party: should it and fact?**

In this section of the paper to answer and explain the second goal related to the role of the party between the supposed and the reality of politics [in fact]. These two roles or functions are empirical personifications to compare the existence of political parties in the era of Indonesian political law reform.

### **The Ideal Party Role**

Based on the clause in considering the political party law that in order to strengthen the implementation of democracy and effective party system in accordance with the mandate of the 1945 Constitution, institutional strengthening and improvement of function and role of political parties are needed.

According to Article 11 of Law No.2 Year 2008 on Political Parties, there are five reasons which are the function of the party as a means of [role] are: [1] Political education for members and the wider community, in order to become an Indonesian citizen aware of his rights and obligations in life of society, nation, and state. [2] Creation of a climate conducive to the unity and unity of the Indonesian nation for the welfare of the people. [3] Abstract, collecting and channeling the political aspirations of the people in formulating and defining state policies. [4]. Political participation of Indonesian citizens. [5] Political recruitment in the process of filling political office through democratic mechanisms by taking into account gender equality and justice.

Understanding the function or role of political parties on the basis of formal legality shows that what is mandated by the law is an ideal wish that until now is very difficult to implement. In this connection ideally democratic relationships (democratic political systems) and political parties related to party presence play a role in the process of interest formulation such as intermediary and civil society. Party as an intermediary connects a society with their political system. In this context, for example, interest groups such as trade unions, employers' associations, professional organizations, citizen initiatives and religious social organizations such as fair and harmony.

While in the realm of civil society emerged various initiatives that revolve around specific goals and problems such as environment, human rights, gender, and others. One of the differences between interest groups and civil society is that it embraces the collective interests of society.

The ideological nature of parties and democratic supremacy institutions will ideally run symmetrically [series or linear], not asymmetric or diametrically opposite. This proves that both the central role of political parties as mediating mediators and channeling aspirations becomes integrated, not divided. But to be honestly acknowledged that the role or function with the five things is the desire that should [ideally] be realized. It's just that the embodiment still requires a long process that until recently only limited 'ideal desire' only. Very difficult to implement.

### **Party Domination In Political Reality**

Concerning the role or function of the party in its political reality among political analysts in the era of democratic transition in almost 19 years in Indonesia is conceptualized by the term 'deficit democracy'. One of the most important parts of the role or function of political parties is the lack of a serious agenda of reform for the purpose of democracy and the defense of the people.

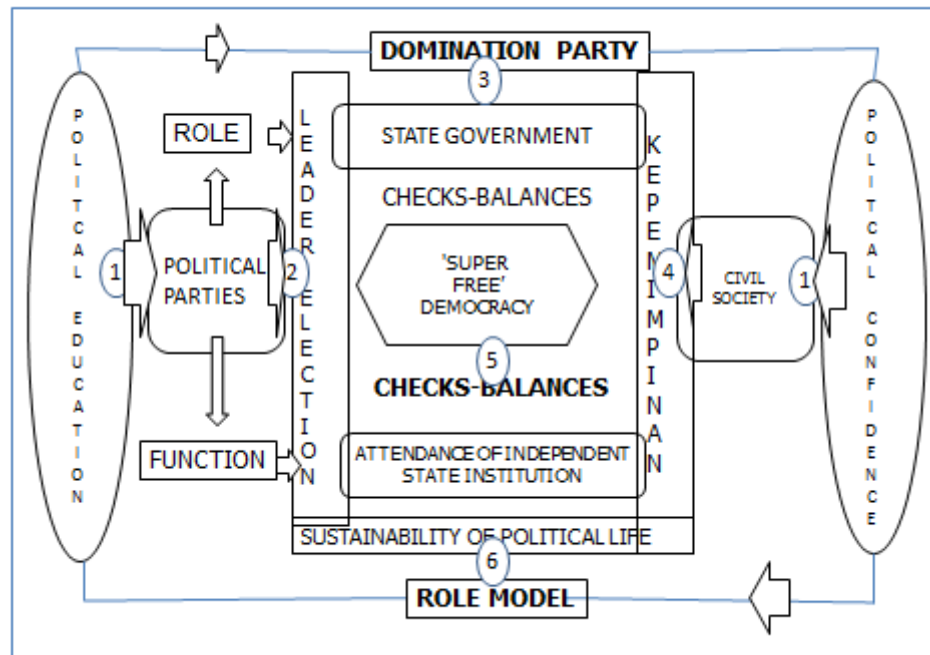
In general, political parties in Indonesia have lost their ideological orientation to meaningful change. The widely acclaimed party elites often engage in an unclearly mixed debate of ideological conflict and power struggle. Both are mixed which is sometimes 'very manipulative' because it uses ideological themes for a very political purpose such as 'power to chair' or 'chair to money' (Mietziner, 2013) and (Haris, 2014).

This mixing of reality illustrates the portrait of the presence of political parties in the dominant reformation era to the extent that political vehicles strive for personal or individual interests. The interests that are strived for are largely unrelated to the goal of reform change for a more democratic, just and prosperous Indonesia. The reality of the presence of this political party gave rise to a 'uniqu' term. This is because the party's presence actually decreases the function of representation when the election takes place which is claimed to be more democratic. This reality has implications of increasing public distrust of political parties. In this context it can be a dark episode for the political reality of the party to play its role in the era of 'super liberal' democracy.

### **Party and political education**

Relying on the foregoing explanation this section of the paper attempts to answer the third objective. The strategic formulation of party's role as an effort to increase people's participation is not related to Political Education. In this context, the meaning of Political Education is the process of learning and understanding of the rights, obligations and responsibilities of every citizen in the life of nation and state [Article 1 Paragraph 4 of Law No.2 Year 2011].

Under the terms of the regulation, the central position of the political party's presence affects its political system. Figure 1 below can explain the existence of the party in a 'super liberal' political system and its relationship to Political Education.



**Fig 1: Political Party In The Political System of Democracy 'Super Liberal'**

Party relationships with political education became important in the era of 'super liberal' democracy because of the related 'role model' [ketauladan, in Indonesia term]. The principle of imitation that does not exist and has never been taught directly in the process of political socialization throughout the reform of Indonesia.

Figure 1 shows that the party's central role is important because as a determinant in the leadership process. The key word is national leadership. The term national sophistication which in the New Order era known as the 'Development Father' [bapak pembangunan in Indonesia term]. This term is an empirical personification of the concept of imitation that does not exist in terms of liberal democracy anywhere.

Since it is 'nonexistent', this figure 1 explicitly explains that [1] political education, [2] political parties, [3] party dominance, [4] civil society, [5] balance of power, and [6] role model [political education] interacts simultaneously in a political system that believes in a 'super liberal' democracy as its political system. His qualitative explanation confirms that party domination can be balanced by strengthening civil society. The term 'power that tends to corrupt, and absolute power must be corrupt' is very important. The dominant tendency of party power must be balanced with the strong presence of intelligent civil society. It is in this context of intelligence in the [national or local] leadership adage that people are always told that the truth is, 'an intelligent society will produce a qualified leader'. So leaders are the determination of society, not the other way around.

Essentially this study finds that if local leadership succession there is still a chance to make choices without the role of political parties because there are independent candidates. While at the national level, the presidential succession does not exist [as per the laws governing it]. Therefore, for the time being adagium 'smart society producing quality leaders', it only applies



locally, depending on party [the existence of political party]. As for the national leadership needs to change the rules on the future. The change is up to the will of the political parties power holder in Indonesia today.

## CONCLUSION

Based on various previous descriptions, this study concludes that, [i]. The relationship of political parties to the political participation of the people is influenced by the behavior of politicians [actors] who manage [manage] the party and its role in local and national politics. [ii]. Experience during political reform shows that the party's ideal will contradict the reality of its role in building the [political] participation of its people. Party dominance in all spheres of state life reflects the 'power concentration' of parties with negative character. This reality is what causes the level of confidence of the people against the party is relatively declining. So direct participation also decreases. [iii]. The strategic formulation of the party's role as an effort to increase people's participation lies in the political education model that the party does, both internally [regeneration through political recruitment] and external efforts to the citizens as its constituents. 'Failure to role model' is a crucial part of political education, and determines the level of people's trust in their party.

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