

The Effectiveness of the Application Model Countermeasures of Golput (Election Abstainer) in KPUD Langkat

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Abstract—The implementation of the abstainer prevention model by the General Election Commission in Langkat can reduce the attention of political observers on the implementation of the general head election (Pilkada). The simultaneous implementation of general head election in Langkat this year showed a decrease in the number of abstainers. The objectives of this study were (1) to investigate the shortcoming of socializing the election conducted by KPUD Langkat; (2) to create the new model of abstainer prevention to overcome the shortcoming of socializing the election; (3) to prove that the model can increase voter participation in the election. The descriptive research method with a case study approach was used in this study to prove the effectiveness of the use of the model. The results showed that the application of the abstainer prevention model carried out by KPUD Langkat was proven to reduce the number of abstainers in the area. However, the implementation of the model collided with the electoral smart home program at KPUD Langkat. Political education by bringing in a community and religious leaders did not go perfectly. KPUD Langkat can apply the new model by integrating the election smart home program, full support of political parties and community leaders so that public participation in elections remains high.

Keywords—abstainer, voter behaviour, simultaneous local election

I. INTRODUCTION

In general, this second-year research was to test the effectiveness of the implementation of the abstention prevention model in the Langkat Election Commission. Community political participation in the 2018 regional election had increased. In the implementation of simultaneous regional elections this year, the number of abstentions in Langkat Regency proved to be declining. This reduction in abstentions was caused by voter awareness as a manifestation of the success of the abstentions model implemented by the Langkat Election Commission or something else. In the first year of the study, it was found that socialization as a single means of controlling abstentions by the Langkat Election Commission and Medan was less effective in raising participatory voter numbers. This prompted the compilation of a new model for the prevention of abstentions to be applied at the Langkat Election Commission. In this second study, abstention prevention was

tested as a model even though it did not work perfectly, but it showed results in voter participation.

When this model of abstention prevention was implemented, the Langkat Regional Election Commission implements the Election Smart House (RPP) program from the National Election Commission. The attention of the Langkat Election Commission was automatically sucked and diverted to the implementation of the RPP. The application of RPP had not been maximized because of funding problems and limited human resources. This complaint had an impact on the implementation of previous abstentions control models.

The efforts of political education carried out jointly between the Election Commission and Researchers through socialization to the community were juxtaposed with the KPU's visit program to the community in the framework of RPP. At that time, the involvement of community leaders and political parties, as well as other non-governmental organizations as actors, seemed to be less effective because of the limited training time and the funding and human resources of the implementers. Finally, the involvement of community leaders, politics and funds did not occur. Langkat Election Commission used the role of old-style political education to the public in each election or local election, namely maximizing socialization activities to remote communities.

The model of abstaining prevention offered cannot be carried out perfectly considering the preparation of the lesson plan also run simultaneously. However, the technical guidelines provided cannot be fully implemented because of limited funds and human resources. The application of the abstentions control model became imperfect because the elements of education of community leaders and the application of techniques to come to the community did not go perfectly. It took time and more commitment to maximize this model as a model that fit the model offered by the researcher.

The difference between the abstention prevention models offered with the RPP lied in the involvement of the community leaders and the location of the focus of coaching. The model of abstention prevention that had been carried out

this year was effective because it could reduce the number of voters who did not vote. However, what was feared was that this occurred because of other aspects beyond what was expected in the implementation of the abstentions control model. Also, other factors had not run perfectly such as the lack of roles of political parties and community leaders. So, the implementation of this new model was carried out by the KPUD together with its RPP.

II. METHOD

The research method used was a qualitative descriptive method with a case study approach. The data extracted in this study was information about the application of the model and the implementation of the right model regarding overcoming abstentions in simultaneous local elections. Also, information from the Langkat Election Commission, political parties and community leaders in implementing this new model was also explored. Data were obtained through observation, interviews and documentation studies. In this second year, the model was socialized and applied during simultaneous elections or regional elections. However, at the time of evaluation, the effectiveness of the model was not going well because it clashed with the implementation of smart home models that could not be applied according to technical guidelines, also because of limited funds and human resources.

III. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The testing of the abstentions control model wanted to prove the lack of socialization that had been carried out so far, the improvements and additions were made to create a model of abstention prevention and prove the increased level of participation in elections.

The following were some important things related to the management of population participation in Langkat District:

A. Political Socialization

Socialization is a learning process for someone to understand and have an awareness of the role to act appropriately in society. According to Djuyandi and Amrizalsaid socialization is generally understood as a learning process, this condition occurs because people will never be satisfied to learn something that has not been known, such as learning about roles, norms and values to adapt with the social environment[1], [2]. While political socialization aims to provide political education, which according to Prihatmoko "forming and fostering political personality and political awareness, as well as people's political participation"[3].

B. Political Participation

Participation requires mental involvement or thoughts and emotions and feelings to achieve goals and also take responsibility for the efforts concerned. Arifin says that the involvement of individual citizens in political activities reaches various levels in the political system is called political participation[4].

Furthermore, Maran explains that political participation is an organized effort by citizens to elect their leaders and influence the form and course of public policy[5]. This effort is based on awareness of their

responsibility for a shared life as a nation in a country. In line with that, Budiarjo explains that political participation is the activity of a person or group to actively participate in political life, such as by electing state leaders and directly influencing government policies[6].

Thus, political participation is the involvement of one's self, mental, mind and emotions or feelings from various levels of political activities such as election activities of state leaders through elections as a form of one's awareness and responsibility for government regulations or policies. Community participation in general elections is by participating in general elections to achieve the goals of nationhood and freedom in a democracy.

C. Elections / Simultaneous Local Elections

Based on the 1945 Constitution, the Republic of Indonesia is a state of sovereignty. General elections are a means to realize popular sovereignty in the framework of the participation of the people in the administration of the State government. The general election is not only aimed at choosing people's representatives who will sit in Consultative / Representative institutions but also as a means to realize the governance of the State which is imbued with the spirit of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. So general elections are a means of implementing people's sovereignty in the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia based on the Pancasila and 1945 Constitution.

In the general statement of UN human rights article 21 paragraph 1, it is stated that every person has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. The right to participate in this government is related and inseparable from the next right in paragraph 2, namely that every person has the right to obtain equal access to services by the government of his country.

In its implementation, the Langkat Regional Election Commission always has an agenda for welcoming election events including; counselling, updating, technical guidance, socialization of the schedule for election, data collection and preparation of election sites. These things have been included in order to increase voter participation in one election period, both elections and regional elections.

This study tested the abstentions prevention model to prove some deficiencies in socialization such as limited time, human resources and residents encountered. This limitation required the improvement and addition of abstentions prevention components to create a model for the prevention of abstentions that included the importance of involving community leaders and political parties in the movement of electoral posts (RPP) built in the community. Finally, the last model that was proven by the increased level of participation in simultaneous regional elections was applied. The following was a discussion of research activities carried out:

A. Political Socialization during Simultaneous Local Election

Important activities that have a direct influence on the level of voter participation are the process of socialization the elections conducted by the Langkat Election Commission. Socialization is one program in a series of

general election activities. Election socialization has become the responsibility of the Langkat Election Commission by the explanation in the General Election Commission Regulation Number 5 of 2015 concerning Public Information and Participation in the Election of Governors and Deputy Governors, Regents and Deputy Regents and/or Mayors and Deputy Mayor. Article 1 point 10 explains that the socialization of Election Implementation from now on referred to as Election Socialization. Election Socialization is the process of delivering information about the stages and programs for holding elections[7].

The purpose of election socialization by the Langkat Election Commission has been stipulated in KPU Regulation Number 5 the Year 2015 article 3, namely: a) disseminating information about the stages, schedules and programs of the Election; b) increase public knowledge, understanding and awareness of rights and obligations in elections; and c) increasing voter participation in elections[7].

In the regulation mentioned about the target of election socialization in Article 4, namely: 1) the target in the implementation of Election Socialization, includes a. General public; b. Beginner voters include teenagers, youth, students and university students; c. Community leaders and/or traditional leaders; d. Mass media group; e. political parties; f. supervisor, Domestic Election Monitor and Foreign Election Monitor; g. Community organization; h. Religious organization; i. Indigenous groups; j. Government agencies; k. Political parties; and/or l. Voters with special needs; 2) Voters with special needs as referred to in paragraph (1) letter l, include persons with disabilities, communities in a border or remote areas, residents of prisons, patients and hospital workers, offshore mining workers, plantations, and other marginalized groups.

Article 9 of the regulation also mentions the method of socialization that can be carried out by the KPU through (a) face-to-face communication; (b) mass media; (c) socialization material; (d) social mobilization; (e) utilization of local / traditional culture; (f) pages of the Provincial KIP / Aceh KIP and / or Regency / City KPU / KIP; (g) Aceh Provincial KIP / KIP announcement board and / or Regency / City KPU / KIP; (h) social media; (I) creation media; (J) other forms that make it easier for people to receive election information properly.

One of the objectives of the electoral socialization mentioned above is to increase voter participation in elections. Therefore socialization activities can increase voter participation. The success of socialization will determine the level of voter participation. Effective socialization will encourage the level of voter participation to be at the expected level. For this reason, effective election socialization is needed.

B. Political Participation During Simultaneous Local Elections

The election socialization conducted by the Langkat Regency KPU included: a) cooperating with the PPK (Sub-District Election Committee) and the PPS (Voting Committee) in the village and cooperating with the Population and Civil Registry Service in terms of providing electoral requirements, namely E-KTP based on Law Number 7 of 2017[8] concerning elections which states that

the absolute requirement to be voters in elections is to have an Electronic Resident Identity Card (E-KTP); b) establishing billboards, banners, flyers, social media as a form of disseminating general election information to the public as a whole; c) socialization to high schools due to high school age is a prospective voter, so it was necessary to introduce direct elections, namely socialization carried out by conducting electoral simulations through the selection of Student Council guided by Langkat Regency KPU; d) data collection on voter requirements. Record prospective voters in the village or sub-district; e) invited the community in the socialization activities conducted by the Langkat Regency KPU. The effect of the socialization activities plus the training of leaders and the formation of local election posts was that the participation of citizens in voting increased.

C. Political Participation during Simultaneous Local Elections

The election socialization mentioned earlier is a program. In a program, the process of socializing or providing information and disseminating information about an activity is very necessary, as well as elections, socialization to the public about the implementation of the election needs to be done. An election dissemination activity also collaborates with supporting elements for the success of political development, the community and other agencies/organizations.

The effectiveness of a program is a condition that shows the level of success of an activity. The effectiveness of election socialization is the success rate of the socialization or dissemination of information programs on elections, based on procedures and objectives, through the use of resources, budgets, facilities and infrastructure, and integration (conducting socialization, consensus development and communication with various other organizations) to achieve organizational goals that have been consciously set beforehand.

Based on the description above, the effectiveness of election socialization can be measured. The effectiveness of election socialization can be said to be effective if through these variables; suitability of procedures, utilization of resources, budget, facilities and infrastructure, achievement of goals and integration (conducting socialization, consensus development and communication with various other organizations). The end of this is the increasing participation rate during simultaneous local elections and the decline in abstention rates in Langkat Regency.

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The first study produced information about the ineffectiveness of socialization conducted by the Langkat Election Commission in dealing with abstentions. This resulted in a complete abstention prevention model to be able to overcome the weaknesses of the socialization that had been implemented by the Langkat Election Commission. In this second study, a complete prevention model was applied to overcome the increasing number of abstentions in each local election and election.

The implementation of the abstention prevention model is the first important thing that must be done to reduce the level of abstentions that occur in Langkat District simultaneous regional election this time. Although the number of abstentions dropped, socialization is still an important element compared to community leaders, political parties and election posts/ KPU smart home election.

The implementation of the model was disrupted by the implementation of smart home programs that inevitably had to be carried out by the Langkat Election Commission. The technical guidelines for the implementation already existed, and the funds had been distributed even though they were limited. This implemented the model disrupted so that socialization could only be carried out without involving the full political parties and community leaders. Also, the implementation of electoral smart homes which were not located in community locations made the application of the model unfavourable. The model should be applied in the midst of the community with training from KPU, community leaders and political parties. Also, the reluctance of the community to go to the Election Commission office was another obstacle in implementing this model.

The role of the Election Commission had been maximized, but the implementation of the model by utilizing offices or shelters in the middle of the community with political parties and community leaders was not going well, so the contribution of community leaders and political parties in the prevention of abstentions was minimal. Langkat Regional Election Commission was still not maximal in other elements due to limited human resources and a tight work program at the time of simultaneous regional elections.

The implementation of the Smart House Election conducted at the Langkat KPUD office should be carried out at the community location. Training of community and religious leaders as the main drivers of the Election Smart House/election post was an important thing to do at the community level.

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