

Democracy and Corruption in Indonesia

(A Study of Corruption Cases in Reformation Era)

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Keywords: Corruption, Democracy, Education, Political and Social Will

Abstract: Corruption in Indonesia is actually not a new phenomenon. Corruption has existed since the era of the old order, new order, even the colonial era. In the reformation era style democratic political system, corruption became apparent that open our eyes that it turns out, it has had a chronic illness. Theoretically, the political system can be linked with the phenomenon of corruption. Politics cannot be separated with power, corruption too. Therefore, how the system will affect the power management of the phenomenon of corruption. A democratic system can be a positive or negative effect on corruption cases. A number of corruption cases in Indonesia has been so massive. Various studies or surveys are always seats the corruption in Indonesia ranked high compared to other countries. Even now well recognized that corruption is considered a serious disease, it is an attempt to lead to corruption eradication increasingly considered important. The effort is characterized by the formation of a variety of laws and regulations, strengthening anti-corruption agencies and anti-corruption education, all of which is expected to eliminate or reduce this social disease. Prospects for a successful eradication of corruption depend on all components of the nation because without the participation of all is impossible corruption will disappear. Various fields and strategies must be done to sustain the program. Everything and even then, it should always be backed by a strong political and social will.

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the Reformation Era which began in 1998, various practices of administering the state that are not in proportion have become public attention and at the same time become a program demand for the ruling government. The main issues of the era were the eradication of the practices of corruption, collusion, and nepotism which were abbreviated as CCN. Why this issue became popular, was because such practices became a trademark for the New Order government which had lost the sentiment of public confidence at that time.

The new government that replaced the new order with various programs wanted to show that the government was committed to eradicating corrupt practices. Therefore, corruption is a very crowded issue in society. The issue of corruption in this country seems to be not just mere talk. This issue is indeed based on a chronic reality. Why not, because Indonesia has been named the most corrupt country in the South-East Asian region. In the dense world it

still won the number six title. This means that the crowded news in the media about corruption is not only limited to the solidness of public consumption, but indeed is a reflection of real facts in society.

In the Reformation Era government which until now has been changed its leadership five times, apparently it has not been able to eradicate corruption. Corruption itself is not stopped completely, in certain cases it is still running and even developing. Thus many parties feel ironic, because the Reformation Era which is determined to eradicate corruption but corruption practices still occur here and there. As if to lose resentment and patience to see the results of various commitments to eradicate this disease of society.

2. METHOD

The method used in preparing this scientific article is a literature review. The literature review relevant to the title of democracy and corruption is on technical books, scientific journals, mass media, and study

documents or survey institutions that already exist. On the basis of theory, data and previous studies are compiled with deductive logic to explain the problems that become the study of this paper.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Understanding of Corruption

Corruption means behaviour that deviates from the official duties of a state office because of gains in status or personal related money (individuals, close family, own group); or violate the rules for implementing some personal behaviour (Klitgaard, 2001). As for Jeremy Pope interpreting corruption is an abuse of trust power for personal interests. There are three elements in this definition, namely (1) abusing power (2) entrusted power (i.e. both in the public sector and in the private sector), (3) personal benefits i.e. it does not always mean only to persons who abuse power, but also for family members and friends (Pope, 2003).

Forms of corruption can be divided into 3 types, namely bribery, extortion and nepotism. (1) Bribery occurs when a civil servant receives a gift offered by a private person with the intention of influencing it to give special attention to the interests of the giver. (2). Extortion: Requests for gifts or gifts in carrying out public duties, or officials who use public funds that they manage for their own benefit, or commit fraud above the price paid by the public. (3). Nepotism: Appointment of relatives, friends, or political colleagues in public positions regardless of the services or consequences of public welfare (Alatas, 1986).

Eigen (1993) states that corruption is one of the many big challenges we face in our day, a challenge that must and can be faced. There are no shortcuts, and there are no easy answers. Corruption, to a certain extent, will always be with us. As we enter the new millennium, we realize that corruption to some extent not only threatens the environment, human rights, democratic institutions and basic rights and independence, but also impedes development and exacerbates the poverty of millions of people around the world. If allowed to continue to infect and create an irrational government, a government is driven by greed, not by the determination to meet people's needs, and which disrupts development in the private sector, corruption will reduce our standard of living even from the most basic human needs.

3.2 Democracy

Democracy literally means that power is held by the people. Democracy is one of the political systems

that is widely adopted by many countries in the world. Speaking of democracy also means discussing power. How power is given to someone by the people, power is exercised by people who receive the mandate, and how power is accountable to the people.

In a democratic system, power is not held in absolute terms, but is limited. Unlike the totalitarian system, power is infinite. A leader or an official in a democratic system is not a ruler, but rather is said to be a servant. Control from the people is wide open, in other words people control the leader. Therefore leaders are always watched by the public. Thus the leader becomes awake from criminal acts including corruption.

Democracy in Indonesia has fluctuated at the level of reality. The era of this reformation is an era of democracy that is truer than in previous eras. Both the new order and the old order had more authoritarian portions than the democracy.

"Power tends to be corrupt, and absolute power is corrupt absolutely." Power tends to be corrupt, and absolute power produces absolute corruption, according to John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton (1834-1902), otherwise known as Lord Acton (Encyclopedia, 2019). This statement implies that the totalitarian political system in which corruption is rampant freely. Thus the democratic political system means more limited corruption. the logic of the theoretical statement is whose principle is what. the autocracy places the leader as the ruler of his people, while democracy places the ruler as the representative of his people. Therefore, in the autocratic system the leader becomes the ruler who controls and controls his people. In a democratic system, the leader is supervised by the people in exercising his authority. When the leaders as groups holding authority are controlled by the public they become difficult to commit corruption. On the contrary in the leader autocracy system is not controlled by the people, then they tend to do corruption.

Opinion different from the above is Aristotle who once said, that democratic systems are actually more corrupt than the monarchy system. Why is that, because in a democratic system of officials or successive leaders who come from among the poor so corrupt. Unlike the royal system, the leader is from the royal family whose receipts are rich people who are not thirsty for a wealth gain. Wattimena (2012) states that in the time of Aristotle lived, many deviations occurred in democratic politics. For example, the political ruler wants to remain as a

ruler, not because he serves the interests of his people, but rather to enrich himself and his group.

Aristoteles distinguished 3 forms of true government, namely government that served the interests of the people. Of the three forms of this political system, everything can be twisted into a misguided government, namely a government that does not pay attention to common interests. The monarchy was easily twisted into tyranny, where one ruler ruled arbitrarily, without regard to common interests, and only paid attention to the interests of the king himself. The aristocratic government was easily twisted into an oligarchy, where some people ruled arbitrarily, only paying attention to a few rich people. Meanwhile, democratic governments can easily slip into anarchy government, or government by people who are dependent on the state, and unable to stand alone. I, based on Aristotle's argument, call it a *parasitocracy*, namely government by people who only knows how to demand, but do not want to work hard, aka government by parasites.

Two opposing opinions about the relationship between democracy and corruption are not black and white. It seems more reflective that democracy does have two sides both of which exist in democracy. This fact is like a two face of one coin.

3.3 Causes of Corruption

Factors that always get accusations as a cause of corruption are quite a lot. There is a debate among observers that limits the three factors believed to be the cause of corruption. First, material factors or financial shortages, which are more familiarly called poverty. This means that factors of shortage or poverty are the cause of corruption. The second is related to non-material factors, namely morality or mental values. This moral factor is usually associated with weak or ugly morality values that exist in each individual, so one's self-control is low. Thus people with no burden to do deviant behaviour. The third is the system factor. This system includes various sub-systems in the community. Such as governance, bureaucracy, regulation, even including the culture that exists in society.

Not much different from the opinion above, Febari (2015) mentions the high number of corruption cases in this country is caused by several things including: (1) Lack of exemplary and leadership of the national elite, (2) Low salaries of Civil Servants, (3) Weak commitment and consistency of law and regulation enforcement, (4) Low integrity and professionalism, (5) Internal supervision mechanisms in all banking, financial and bureaucratic institutions have not been established,

(6) Conditions of work environment, job duties, and community environment, and (7) Low faith, honesty, shame, morality, and ethics.

According to Indonesia Corruption Watch (2000) that in general the causes of corruption can occur due to political, legal and economic factors, as in the book entitled *Role of Parliament in Eradicating Corruption* which identifies four factors that cause corruption, namely political factors, legal factors, economic factors, and bureaucracy and transnational factors.

The theoretical perspective, Durkheim (1982) views that human nature is actually passive and controlled by society. Social solidarity itself is indeed an abstract unit. An individual is morally neutral and it is people who create their personalities. He also controls the individual through the social facts he learns through education and the environment. Because human nature is passive, it is the norms and values of a society that control them. According to the theory's view, society has a greater influence in shaping individual behaviour than its environment. In the context of corruption, it means that in a society whose cultural systems and institutions are corrupt, they will form corrupt individuals no matter how much individual piety.

3.4 Level of Corruption

The level of development of corruption in a society can be seen from the following terminology. First, corruption occurs in a society that is personal corruption, secondly, corruption is institutional and thirdly corruption is systemic. When the development of corruption is still at the personal level, the number of perpetrators of corruption in society is relatively still able to be counted on the fingers. At this level, corruption is only carried out by certain individuals who are deviant.

The problem becomes somewhat different when corruption develops into an institutionalized culture in certain institutions. At this level, corruption is no longer carried out by dilapidated mental individuals, but by all those who work at the institution concerned. This condition shows certain institutions are more corrupt than other institutions.

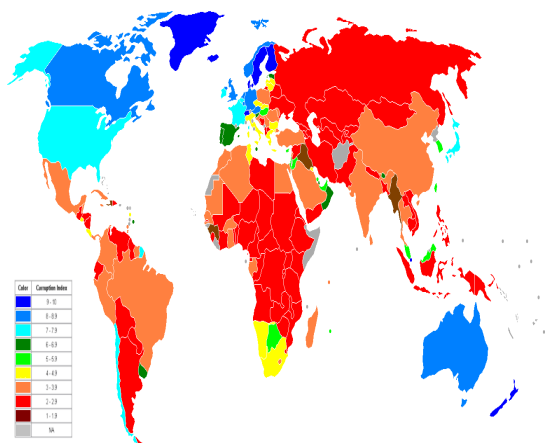
Problems will become increasingly complex when corruption develops to a systemic level. At this level, corruption is widely practiced by all citizens and accepted as part of the culture. Nevertheless, the form of involvement of each member of the community will vary according to their respective institutional position and mental inclinations.

The level of corruption in Indonesia is approximately at what level depends on how severe

this social disease is. From various indicators of the survey results it seems that the conditions of corruption in this beloved country are quite severe (Muslihudin, 2018). Some of the following information is a description of how severe corruption is in Indonesia.

Data from the corruption perception index, the value for Indonesia seems to be getting better, but still in a low ranking. In 2003 it was ranked 130 out of 133 countries with a score of 24 GPA. Whereas in 2016 it was ranked 90 with a score of GPA 37. Then when viewed from the index of perceptions of corruption presented in the form of images in 2006 it was seen that Indonesia was still high because it is classified as corrupt red and blue is low or clean from corruption. The following figure illustrates how the level of corruption that occurs in countries in the world. Corruption Perception Index (2009) showed the figure about corruption in color.

Fig. 1 Corruption Perceptions Index 2006



Information: The corruption perception index in the world, 2006. Blue shows a little corruption, red shows a lot of corruption.

From figure 1, it can be seen that the symbol of corruption cases in Indonesia is red and red towards dark red. it means that the level of corruption is very high, or the corruption index ranges from 1.19 to 2.29. This corruption index is a reflection after the eight years of the reform era, and 4 years after the corruption eradication commission. eight years for an era is indeed still short. also 4 years for a corruption eradication commission is also relatively short. Therefore it might not be wise to judge that the reform era did not have a positive impact on eradicating corruption as the slogan of the birth of that era. Indonesia was based on a score of 47th position out of 53 ratings made by Transparency International.

The picture of corruption is in the present era, Indonesia according to the index of perceptions of corruption in the Asean region has seen an improvement, but still the value is relatively low. Transparency International Indonesia (TII) said that the 2018 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) score increased. Based on the CPI score, Indonesia is ranked 89 with the number 38. Indonesia's score rises one point. Previously, based on the results of the 2017 CPI, Indonesia's score was ranked 96 out of 180 countries with a score of 37.

In the ASEAN circle, Indonesia was still under Malaysia which had a score of 47. The first place was Singapore with a score of 85, while the second was Brunei Darussalam (score 63) then Malaysia. Under Indonesia there is the Philippines (score 34). Meanwhile, the three lowest countries in ASEAN are Cambodia (score 20), Myanmar and Laos (score 29). Meanwhile, in the international world, Indonesia's score is still below the international CPI average. At present, the average CPI number is 43.

3.5 Eradication of Corruption

Corruption is one of the social illness that need to be eradicated in order to enforce a sovereign state that emphasizes public interests rather than personal interests. However, efforts to eradicate this disease are not as easy as it seem. Eradicating corruption is different from eradicating other social ailments. Eradicating lottery, for example, is enough with a leader order and followed up by the security forces, it will effectively eradicate it. Eradicating corruption is not enough just to do that.

Corruption has many dimensions and does not only face the criminal dimension, but also has political, economic, moral, cultural, etc. dimensions. Therefore eradication of corruption requires comprehensive handling and collective effort (Lubis et al, 1993). It is always necessary to relate anti-corruption strategies to characteristics of the actors involved (and the environment they operate in). There is no single concept and program of good governance for all countries and organizations, there is no 'one right way'. There are many initiatives and most are tailored to specifics contexts. Societies and organizations will have to seek their own solutions. (Fijnaut and Huberts: 2002)

Eradicating corruption from the political side must be seen on the side of the democratic system. Strong potential for a democratic system is the control of society as a democratic character. It is this social control that should be fostered and developed by various institutions and mechanisms that can easily be carried out on the course of social control.

Instead, strengthen the mechanism for recruiting leaders or officials so that positions are not used as a place to enrich themselves, but as a place to serve (Muslihudin et al, 2007).

4. CONCLUSION

The prospect of the success of eradicating corruption is very dependent on all components of the nation because without all participation, the corruption will be lost. Various fields and strategies must be carried out to support the program. All that too, must always be supported by social will and strong political will.

This democratic political system must be optimized by the function of social control, especially towards the leaders. Thus at least it will be able to reduce this massive corruption case of corruption.

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