

The Role of Democracy Volunteers in Increasing Community Participation in the 2019 Election at the KPU, Tangerang City

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ABSTRACT. The purpose of this study was to determine and describe the role of democratic volunteers in increasing the participation of the public (voters) in the 2019 simultaneous elections at Tangerang City KPU. The method used in this research is descriptive method with a qualitative approach. Descriptive Method According to Kuncoro is "Descriptive research includes data collection activities to answer questions about the current status of research subjects, because this research is done by interacting directly with stakeholders. Sources of data were taken through field research and literature study. This research was conducted at the KPU Kota Tangerang Jl. Nyi Mas Melati. Collecting data were through observation, interviews and documentation then the data were analyzed using qualitative descriptive analysis. The results showed that in carrying out the tasks of the Democracy Volunteers, it was divided into 2 (two) categories, namely the first to conduct socialization in public places, and the second to carry out socialization based on segments. The Democracy Volunteer Program initiated by the KPU involves community groups from 10 strategic voter segments, namely the family segment, the first-time voter segment, the young voter segment, the female voter segment, the disabled voters segment, the voters with special needs segment, the marginal voter segment, the community segment, the segment religious and internet citizen segments. Based on Tangerang City KPU report, the presence of democracy volunteers has increased the number of Tangerang City community participation in the 2019 elections.

Keywords: *democracy volunteers, community participation, KPU.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Banten Province stated that post-reformation in the 1999 election that did not use their voting rights was 10.40 percent of the Permanent Voters List (DPT). In the 2004 elections that did not use their voting rights rose to 23.34 percent of the total DPT. Meanwhile, the 2009 election which did not use their voting rights was 29.01 percent, so the level of community participation from the 1999 election to the 2009 election had decreased by 19 points.

In the midst of public apathy towards the aforementioned Election, it is a formidable challenge for Democracy Volunteers to rebuild public awareness at the grassroots level to be able to exercise political rights and boost people's political participation in the implementation of this General Election. Therefore, people who are members of Democracy Volunteers are needed who are truly neutral and concerned about the processes of democratization in society. There is no conflict of interest in them so that they can tarnish the process of democratization in society, let alone ride on them. No personal gain, just be able to guard the

behavior of the people in the community so that they can use their voting rights properly.

However, this must be supported by other parties, especially those who are competent for the election, especially political parties participating in the election, in order to create a conducive atmosphere for the holding of an honest and fair election. Political parties participate in processes that injure the democratic process in the Election. The work of the Democracy Volunteers will be in vain if there is still money politics being carried out by politicians which can undermine the planting of the understanding that has been implanted in the community about democracy and fair and fair elections.

In fact, naturally, what can raise the image and interest of the public towards the election is concrete evidence of the election results. If the stages of organizing the General Election go well, producing representatives of the people and leaders who are entrusted with carrying out their duties truly for the benefit of the people's welfare and the results of the elections are proven to bring changes to the life of the nation and state for the better, then without being ordered by the people will flock to

come to the polling station to exercise their political rights and succeed in the general election like in the 1955 election.

The legal basis for the formation of Democracy Volunteers by the General Election Commission includes:

- 1). Republic of Indonesia Law No. 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections (State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia of 2017 Number 182, Supplement to the State of the Republic of Indonesia 6109); Article 448 paragraph (1) states that "General elections are held with public participation" furthermore in paragraph (2) states that "public participation as referred to in paragraph (1) can be carried out in the form of: a) election socialization, b) political education for voters, c) surveys or opinion polls about elections and d) quick calculations of election results.
- 2). KPU Regulation Number 05 of 2008 concerning General Election Commission, Provincial General Election Commission and Regency / City Election Commission, as amended by KPU Regulation Number 01 of 2010.
- 3). KPU Regulation Number 06 of 2008 concerning the organizational structure and working procedures of the General Election Commission Secretariat, as well as the Provincial Election Commission, and District / City General Election Commission Secretariat.
- 4). KPU Regulation Number 10 of 2018 concerning Socialization, Voter Education and Community Participation in organizing General Elections.

The General Election Commission (KPU) of the Republic of Indonesia officially formed Democracy Volunteers for the 2019 Election throughout Indonesia. The formation of democratic volunteers is contained in KPU RI regulation Number 32 / PP.08-SD / 06 / KPU / I / 2019 concerning the Formation of Democratic Volunteers for the 2019 Concurrent Election.

Meanwhile, in the attachment to KPU RI Letter Number: 32 / PP.08-SD / 06 / KPU / I / 2019, dated January 9, 2019, regarding the Formation of Democracy Volunteers for the 2019 Concurrent Election, describes the duties of Democratic Volunteers as subjects who will conduct socialization and education to voters.

The formation of Democratic Volunteers in each Regency / City is limited to only 55 people with the aim of increasing voter participation and

reducing the number of invalid votes. Moreover, in this year's election there are five types of ballots, namely to elect presidential / vice presidential candidate pairs, candidates for DPR RI, candidates for members of the Regional Representative Council (DPD) RI, candidates for members of the Provincial DPRD, and candidates for members of Regency / Municipal DPRD. To do this, they are tasked with going down to their distribution areas to socialize to the public about what the KPU has been doing, and to explain the importance of public participation in democratic parties. In addition, Democracy Volunteers also help inform the public regarding the timing of the 2019 elections at the grassroots level.

Political participation is basically a part of political culture, due to the existence of political structures in society, such as political parties, interest groups, pressure groups as well as critical and active mass media. This is an indicator of people's involvement in political life (participants). Meanwhile, the definition of political participation itself is the activity of a person or group of people to actively participate in political life, among others by electing a state leader and directly or indirectly influencing government policy (public policy). This activity includes actions such as voting in general elections, attending meetings, holding contact (contacting) or lobbying with government officials or members of parliament, becoming a member of a social movement party with direct action and so on. In addition, participation can be interpreted as an important aspect of democracy. Participation is the level of political participation of citizens in political activities, both active and passive, direct and indirect in order to influence government policy.

2. METHODS

The method used in this research is descriptive method with a qualitative approach. Descriptive Method According to Kuncoro "Descriptive research includes data collection activities to answer questions about the current status of research subjects, because in this research is done by interacting directly with stakeholders.

Qualitative research does not only collect data, but is an approach to the empirical world, and provides an explanation of community participation in the 2019 general election at the Tangerang City Election Commission, so that this research can provide an overview of the role of democratic volunteers in increasing community participation (voters).

This research was conducted at the General Election Commission (KPU) Tangerang City on Jl. Nyimas Melati I No. 16 Tangerang District, Tangerang City. Researchers chose the place of the Tangerang City KPU because the Tangerang City KPU was the organizer of the election in Tangerang City.

Data collection techniques used by researchers in this study are:

1. Literature study, namely by reading and searching for books related to the role of democracy volunteers in increasing community participation
2. Field studies, namely by observing and engaging directly in the KPU which is the object of research to find out and find accurate data on the role of democracy volunteers in increasing community participation
 - a) Participant observation, coming down and looking directly into the field with observations and records the symptoms studied related to the implementation of the 2019 Election
 - b) Interviewing, conducting debriefing with resource persons who know and understand further, especially regarding the role of democracy volunteers in increasing community participation
 - c) Internet browsing, looking for information about the implementation of the role of volunteer democracy in increasing community participation (voters) by accessing it through electronic media.

There are two kinds of data sources used in this research, namely primary data and secondary data.

1. Primary data is divided into two data sources, namely:
 - a. Main, namely data obtained directly from the object of research, namely the General Election Commission of Tangerang City, democracy volunteers
 - b. Supporters, namely data from the KPU Secretariat, PPK and community leaders.
2. Secondary Data, namely data obtained from notes, documents, photographs, and other written material from activities carried out by democracy volunteers. In the experiment section, all materials and methods that have been used in the research should be stated clearly.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this paper, we develop a probabilistic inventory model using direct and indirect grouping strategy, where annual demand is normally distributed. There are some assumptions in developing our model.

A. *The role of democratic volunteers in increasing community participation*

To carry out the socialization carried out by democracy volunteers, the Head of the General Election Commission of Tangerang City carried out several stages of the activity agenda. First, make a schedule for the recruitment stages and activities for the implementation of democracy volunteers in Tangerang City to be carried out according to the schedule set by the Central KPU, namely:

1. Carry out recruitment on January 9-15 2019
2. Provide debriefing for democracy volunteers on January 16, 2019
3. Prepare props for democracy volunteers
4. Develop voter education materials / handbooks for volunteer democracy
5. Coordinate volunteer democracy activities in each base / segment
6. Supervise the implementation of volunteer democracy activities
7. Make monthly reports on the implementation of volunteer democracy in the region
8. Create a matrix for democratic volunteer activities
9. Report the activities of volunteer democracy to the KPU of Banten Province.

The recruitment / recruitment of democratic volunteers are carried out in a formal form which is known by all parties in the Tangerang City area. Information on admissions activities is informed through: printed and non-printed newspapers (radio), social media: Facebook, Instagram, WhatsUp, and various KPU internet sites.

The registration of 120 volunteer candidates for democracy who received from the file was declared to have passed administratively. Tests and interviews of democracy volunteers were held at the Tangerang City KPU Office on January 16, 2019, and as many as 55 democracy volunteers were accepted and declared to have passed for 10 segments. In supporting the activities of volunteer democracy in Tangerang City, it is necessary to prepare a planning for volunteer democracy activities. As for what will be done by democracy volunteers disseminate information to 10 segments of voters.

Activities carried out by the Democratic Volunteer (Relation) of the General Election Commission of Tangerang City are based on the Decree of the General Election Commission (KPU) of Tangerang City which has the aim of increasing voter participation in the 2019 General Election. This activity is carried out by bringing in layers of society who have segmentation different. Therefore, the KPU Democracy Volunteers in Tangerang City map volunteers with 10 different segments by focusing on the target to be aimed.

B. Socialization Activities for Democratic Volunteers in Tangerang City to Increase Community Participation

From the end of January to April the Democracy Volunteers conducted outreach in various locations. In socialization activities, Democracy Volunteers convey material related to the 2019 Election as well as an invitation to use voters' voting rights in the 2019 Election. Activities carried out by democracy volunteers aim to:

1. Increase the understanding and knowledge of the 10 voter segments about the importance of the 2019 General Election in building a democratic life as nation and state
2. Increase the understanding and knowledge of the 10 voter segments about the stages, programs, schedules, times and results of the 2019 General Election.
3. Increase the understanding and knowledge of the 10 segments of voters about several technical matters in using their political rights and voting rights properly.
4. Increase public awareness, especially the 10 segments of voters to participate in every stage of the 2019 General Election.
5. Increase public awareness and encourage the participation of 10 segments of voters in exercising their voting rights in the 2019 General Election.

The 10 (ten) bases / segments that are the targets of volunteer democracy activities, namely:

a) Family segment

The electoral socialization by Democracy Volunteers for family segmentation was carried out using face-to-face presentation methods. Participants and implementers of the socialization gathered in one place to then carry out socialization activities around the election.

b) Beginner voter segment

During February to April, the Democratic

Volunteer for the first-time voter segment carried out the socialization 6 times and in one month conducted 2 activities in various locations using face-to-face communication methods. The material provided was the importance of voter participation and the technique of counting votes later in simultaneous elections, to be better understood by beginner voter groups in particular and ensure that they do not abstain from voting in the elections which will be held on April 17.

c) Young Voters Segment

Socialization by Democracy Volunteers to the youth voter segment was carried out using face-to-face, interactive and dialogue methods. The targeted voters are young people in Tangerang City.

d) Female Voters Segment

The female segment of Democracy Volunteers conducted outreach with targeted voters, namely women in Tangerang City. The forms of socialization provided are face-to-face, interactive and dialogue explanations.

e) Persons with Disabilities Segment

Socialization by Democratic Volunteers with the Voters with Disabilities segment was carried out using face-to-face methods and interactive forums. The targets of the outreach activities are persons with disabilities in all of Tangerang City, who are members of Special Schools and Associations or Communities of Persons with Disabilities. The socialization was carried out nine times with the target of students, teachers, staff, administrators and school members with special needs.

f) Special Needs voter segment

Socialization by Democratic Voters Segment Volunteers with Special Needs was carried out using face-to-face methods and interactive forums. The target of Democratic Volunteers for the segment of voters with special needs is voters with special needs. Activities that have been carried out by democracy volunteers in the segment of voters with special needs, six times with each socialization attended by 125 participants.

g) The Marginal Segment

Socialization by Democracy Volunteers in the marginal segments delivers material related to elections through face-to-face, dialogue, interactive and discussion methods. The target or focus group discussion carried out by Marginal-Basis Democracy Volunteers are residents who live in slum areas and are marginalized by focusing on public discussions with housewives around the area.

h) Community segment

Socialization by Democracy Volunteers to the segment of community voters is carried out face-to-face, interactive forums and discussion forums. The community voter segment of the Democratic Volunteer is aiming at various communities in the city of Tangerang.

i) Religious Segments

Socialization by Democratic Volunteers for religious voter segments was carried out by face-to-face and simulation methods. The target of religious voters for democracy volunteers is segment voters based on religion.

j) Internet Citizen Segment (*netizens*).

Socialization by Democracy Volunteers for the internet citizen voter segment focuses on voters who actively use the internet or social media.

This program also involves the widest possible participation of the people who are positioned as the pioneers of democracy for their communities. Democratic volunteers will become partners of the Tangerang City KPU in carrying out the district / city-based voter education and socialization agenda. Each segment is socialized six to nine times, according to the needs of the segment of society. Community participation in participating in the socialization was very enthusiastic.

C. Community Participation in the 2019 Election in Tangerang City

TABLE I. Tangerang City Community Participation Level From 2006 To 2017

ELECTION	GOVEL 2006	LEGEL 2009	PRESEL 2009	GOVEL 2011	LEGEL 2014	PRESEL 2014	GOVEL 2017
Participation Rate	60,83%	71,72%	74,94%	62,38%	70,83%	68,66%	62,78%

GOVEL: Governor Election; LEGEL: Legislative Election; PRESEL: President Election

Based on table I above, the level of participation of the people of Tangerang City in the election from 2006-2017 has decreased, both GOVEL, LEGEL, and PRESEL.

TABLE II. Tangerang City Public Participation Levels In The 2019 Election

NO	DISTRICT	PARTICIPATION RATE
1	KARAWACI	81,14 %
2	TANGERANG	77,77 %
3	NEGLASARI	82,33 %
4	BATU CEPER	78,90 %
5	BENDA	78,45 %
6	CIPONDOH	79,02 %
7	PINANG	82,82 %
8	CILEDUG	83,78 %
9	KARANG TENGAH	80,67 %
10	LARANGAN	80,27 %
11	CIBODAS	82,18 %
12	JATI UWUNG	84,75 %
13	PRIUK	82,53 %
	TOTAL	81,12 %

Based on table II above, the participation of the people of Tangerang City has increased significantly. The increase was reinforced by the percentage of participation in each district reaching 70 percent and above. This proves that there are volunteers for democracy to assist the KPU in Tangerang City in socializing the election to the people of Tangerang City. Socialization efforts carried out by the KPU and democracy volunteers have resulted in an increase in community participation from previous years, as much as 81.2 percent.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER RESEARCH

The existence of volunteer democracy is an implementation of the meaning of community involvement in elections. The implementation of volunteer democracy in Tangerang City based on Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections confirms that elections are held with the participation of volunteer communities. Democracy in socialization to the community includes 3 (three) things; first, elections and the importance of participation; secondly, the importance of elections for first-time voters; all three stages of the election. In carrying out the duties of the Democracy Volunteers, it is divided into 2 (two) categories,

namely the first to conduct socialization in public places, and the second to carry out socialization based on segments. The Democracy Volunteer Program initiated by the KPU involves community groups from 10 strategic voter segments, namely the family segment, the first-time voter segment, the young voter segment, the female voter segment, the disabled voters segment, the voters with special needs segment, the marginal voter segment, the community segment, the segment religious and internet citizen segments. Based on the Tangerang City KPU report, the presence of democracy volunteers has increased the number of Tangerang City community participation in the 2019 elections.

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