



The Role of the Press in Democracy

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Abstract. One of the freedoms possessed by every individual is freedom of expression and opinion. Democracy provides opportunities for everyone to take part in enjoying the freedoms they have proportionally, considering that one individual's opportunities are limited by the opportunities of others. Data innovation provides another variation in political life in different countries. Electronic media and social media are platforms for the development of different data and it is clear that this is a place for citizens to be able to have opinions and express themselves. In democratic countries, the media can be a place to convey public aspirations. One of the main post-reform phenomena is liberation in the field of mass media, the emergence of opportunities for expression and democratization. Freedom of expression is marked by guarantees of freedom of the press and the opportunity to express opinions, while democratization is marked by the launching of political opportunities and institutional changes. The presence of technological innovation and data communication then triggers an increase in democratic values. Although the presence of digital democracy is ready to determine the shortcomings of manual voice-based system techniques, it does not mean that this model is without imperfections. It is worth considering its application in the public eye from now on. Is the data available on the internet really of high quality and can be accessed without any constraints by each individual.

Keywords: democracy · freedom of the press · the role of the press

1 Introduction

One of the freedoms possessed by every individual is freedom of expression and opinion. The course of democracy in a country is marked by respect, protection, and fulfillment of human rights which are the commitments and obligations of public authorities, besides that, of course, the role and support of the community are also needed. Freedom of expression and opinion depends on the strategy set by the competent government. Especially on the issue of providing opportunities for people to express themselves out there and the state guarantees opportunities for free expression without intervention [1].

Democracy provides an opportunity for everyone to take part in enjoying the freedoms they have proportionally, considering that one individual's opportunities are limited by the opportunities of others [2]. Freedom of expression is an important component of all democratic systems and public support. It is important to create public support in public policy-making or terms of voting. By violating individual freedom, it can be said that public authority has occurred in an authoritarian manner.

The development of information and technology in the world has a functioning impact in shaping people and also life. Globalization is a collection of various association events that occur in the world's society, which shows that globalization allows strengthening the scope and speed of contact between people and networks in different regions of the planet. This is also combined with a wider range of exercises related to world connections.

Early in modernity in progress, Thomas Hobbes published *Leviathan* (1651), a book that tried to offer an approach to managing social turmoil. He imagined the state before the founding of the state or what became known as the state of nature. Under such conditions the opportunity of each individual is a danger to the opportunity of everyone else, consequently essentially denying the opportunity. "Under such conditions," Hobbes said, "Life with humans is not only miserable, but it is also very hard" [3].

The digital revolution is changing the stage of contemporary politics. Conventional political goals are tested. Terms such as sharing economy, e-government, internet learning, and so on will be heard more often. Society is progressively interconnected digitally; it can speed up many processes that are constrained by space and time. In May 1998, there was a movement for change that succeeded in overthrowing the New Order State. Since then, political elements in Indonesia have developed rapidly, which is marked by, among other things, explosions of political participation. In the ten years since the fall of the New Order, the unconventional type of political support has stood out and has quantitatively trumped conventional political participation. During that time, the relationship between political forces was also different.

The development of communication technology innovation which was then followed by data innovation drivers gave another variation to political life in various countries. Data and communication technology innovations provide wider access to data information and the ability of the population to reflect their desires beyond the scope of the individual. The data society created by innovative advances is starting to move to form virtual public spaces to fulfill their desires and express their reality. The presence of these new advances welcomes us to review democracy in the development of communication technology innovation. Freedom House data shows that press freedom has declined almost around the world over the past decade. Among the countries included free category in the Freedom report House in 2019, 19 percent (16 countries) have experienced a decrease in the freedom score press for the last five years [4].

Freedom House notes that aspects of freedom in Indonesia have continued to decline since 2013, from free status to free partially (partly free). Worries and symptoms The decline of democracy in Indonesia is visible in some things. Sharpening the polarization from 2014 to 2019, both things happened in the presidential election, as well as the election regional head [5], supervision of social media activities, disbandment of organizations, and intimidation of NGO activists (Non-Governmental Organizations) became indicators of declining freedom in Indonesia [6].

Electronic media and social media are platforms for the development of different data and it is clear that this is a place for citizens to be able to have opinions and express themselves. In democratic countries, the media can be a place to convey public aspirations. Social media affects a new character, mass media produced allows the general public to convey content that they collect themselves [7]. One form of electronic media

that is mostly used is the press and the dissemination of news through the media. The press is a means for citizens country to express thoughts and opinions and has an important role in a democratic country. The free press gives control to the government so that the government continues to carry out its duties well but it would be nice if in carrying out its duties, the Press remains Professional and balanced [8]. Democracy in the form of freedom conveys information sometimes abused by the user in a public area. This abuse can be felt from the development of the press industry via the internet, electronic media, or social network [9]. This problem will be further investigated by the author and its implications for the implementation of democracy.

2 Method Research

The socio-legal research approach is a combination of approaches that focus on the social sciences, such as political science, economics, cultural science, history, anthropology, communication science, and several other sciences, which are then combined with the approach used in in the science of law, such as learning about the principles, doctrines, and hierarchies of legislation that include it [10]. This socio-legal approach will be the basis for the author to find out the relationship between the application of legislation and existing implementation in state life.

3 Discussion

3.1 Definition of Democracy

Etymologically democracy comes from the Greek, “demos” which means the people, and “kratos/kratein” which means power. The basic concept of democracy means “the people in power” (government of rule by the people). There is also a short definition for the term democracy which is defined as government or power from the people and for the people. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), Democracy is an idea or view of life that prioritizes equal rights and obligations as well as equal treatment for all citizens.

Democracy according to some experts:

1. Democracy as shown by Montesquieu, state power must be separated and exercised by three different and separate foundations or institutions, namely first, the legislature which is the holder of the power to make laws and regulations, second, the executive which has the power to make laws and regulations. The power to implement laws and regulations, and the third is the judiciary, which holds the power to conduct law enforcement arbitrations. In addition, each of these institutions stands independently without being influenced by different institutions.
2. Democracy according to Abraham Lincoln is the government of the people, by the people, and for the people.
3. Democracy, as pointed out by Aristotle, is an opportunity or principle of a democratic system is freedom because only through freedom can each general public share power in his country. Aristotle also said that assuming that a person lives without the opportunity to choose his way of life, then, at that time, he only resembles a slave.

4. Henry B. Mayo stated that the democratic system as a political framework is a framework that shows that public policy is not fully governed in large part by successful delegates in periodic elections which are based on the principle of political equality by individuals and are held under conditions of greater political freedom. Guaranteed.
5. Democracy, as stated by Anwar Ibrahim, is the granting of freedom to the general public, while economic failure or success concerns the framework applied.

Democracy is individual power or a form of government with individuals as the holders of power. Overall, democracy is a modern socio-political framework that is admirable out of many existing frameworks and ideologies today. Legal expert Moh. Mahfud MD, there are two explanations behind democratic elections in society and the state. First of all, almost all countries on the planet make democracy a principle that has basic standards. Second, democracy as a state standard has provided guidelines for the role of individuals running the state as the highest organizational association. In this way, it is important to have the right information and understanding in the eyes of the public about democracy. The essence of democracy is the opportunity for aspirations and the voice of the people (individuals) in influencing a decision [11].

Of these several forms of the government system, majority democracy is the most commonly used form of the government system, including in Indonesia. Indonesia is one of the countries that uphold democracy, in the Southeast Asia region, Indonesia is the country that has the best democracy.

3.2 The Role of the Press in Democratic Activities

The leap forward of popularity-based democracy directed through digital/virtual means appears to be another kind of capacity building for citizens to create and enhance social movements. Assuming that in the 17th and 18th centuries the foundations underlying European and American social development were available as popular revolutions against the authoritarian monarchy so that various elites and individuals questioned the State's claim to a democracy with a majority rule system, then, at that time, Along with the improvement of the culture of literacy and innovation, social development with the aim of democracy can be realized in a larger context and boundaries.

Moderate control or demeanor of online political gatherings is essential for successful policymakers. Over time, a competent and trusted facilitator is often expected to control the meeting and help create order out of potential chaos. By using program resources from publicly accessible software, a facilitator may have the option of setting up a political discussion, for example through a social event to gather as many options or public opinion on an issue as possible before being brought to an official forum that accommodates the issue or issue. Certain that develop in society.

Next, several applications that exist in the realm of political parties according to Leggewie and Bieber: Virtual party centers, forums, chats, and events via online, digital party organizations, online campaigns, online-protest.

Democratic regulatory frameworks require democracy-based skills in their audiences. That is, it is important to have the special abilities that citizens have in a democracy so that they can work well as individuals within the framework of democratic rules.

For example, having the ability to respect the freedom of others, respect the thoughts and ideas of others, not impose one's own will, and so on. According to Denny J.A. origination, this capacity is given the expression "democratic spirit".

Without this capability regardless of whether or not there is, for example, the readiness of the leadership elite to loosen the democratic system, it is feared that what will happen is rampant fragmentation, thickening of the spirit of primordial gathering, and the spirit of mutual hostility, as happened in India and the Philippines. There, the democratic system often leads to hostility and aggression, racial conflicts, to the resolution of differences of opinion through armed contact, and explosive smoke. Two years after Clinton's victory in the White House, hopes of democratization are finally happening in Indonesia. In 1998 the development of democratization began here with the demand for political change. It started with a state of economic crisis, which removed the legitimacy of the New Order government. Simultaneously, there was a movement demanding political change, initiated by students and activists who pushed for a change of power and democratization. Thus, the reform movement became a milestone in the early history of New Indonesia, namely, to become the democratic Indonesia it is today.

During the 1990s alone, we already had a variety of different modern media office facilities, from cable radio, satellite dish, teleconference, facsimile, and SKSD Palapa, to remote printing. But on the other hand, the sources of information and data that can be accessed are still limited, and until the late 1990s, there have not been many important changes. At a global level, our sources of data information generally come from coverage of significant state news agencies (Reuter, UPI, AFP, and AP). At the national level, sources of data information are still owned by the elite class, the government, or those with access to the mass media. So, many "general public" around at that time there were still many who did not or had not had the opportunity to take advantage of the media and use their opinions. The general population plays more of a "loyal audience" role with all its consequences, rather than a definitive player.

During the New Order era, all mass media communication was determined as a component of the ideological state apparatus, which took part during the process of time spent in producing and maintaining the stability of the regime's legitimacy. As a result, the Suharto government exercised different controls over the press, including broadcasting, with different guidelines and legislation. The ideological state apparatus (ISA) is Louis Althusser's proposal to offend power groups outside the state, particularly religious, cultural, and educational institutions, including the mass media, which are secretly subservient to society. The way it works is more ideological in nature, but in the end, it will be repressive too, because the control of consciousness is planned.

One of the main post-reform phenomena is liberation in the field of mass media, the emergence of opportunities for expression and democratization. Freedom of expression is marked by guarantees of freedom of the press and the opportunity to express opinions, while democratization is marked by the launching of political opportunities and institutional changes. After the SIUPP arrangement was revoked and Law No. 40 of 1999 concerning the Press, the existence of the mass media experienced extraordinary independence that had never happened before, both in the print press and broadcast media. They were freed from the strict regulatory constraints during the New Order. For example, private radio and TV, which are usually not allowed to make news but

have to “leave” from RRI and TVRI, have since been “free” from shifting commitments, and are allowed to make their news or even cooperate with unknown media. Not a few private radio stations broadcast private areas, even private TV relays to foreign telecommunications foundations, such as the BBC, VOA, and others. Next, several applications that exist in the realm of political parties according to Leggewie and Bieber: Virtual party centers, forums, chats, and events via online, digital party organizations, online campaigns, online-protest.

The background of the reform was the strengthening of freedom of the press, freedom of opinion, assembly, and expression. Colleges expand the opportunities to express opinions and make dissent. The press works to realize press freedom by fulfilling the people’s right to know and access information [12].

New political parties are emerging, with undeniably great work. Parliament strengthens its authority and command over the executive. Reforms also led to deregulation and liberalization with the result of weakening state institutions. One of them is that there may not be an approved foundation to monitor and control media content to date. In the name of democracy, orders over media content are passed on to the dynamics of civil society. Simorangkir suggested some characteristics of press freedom as follows:

- a) A free and responsible press
- b) A healthy press
- c) The press as a disseminator of information objective
- d) The press exercises social control and
- e) Constructive
- f) The press as a channel for the aspirations of the people and expand communication and community participation.
- g) There is a positive interaction between the press, government, and society [13].

The press is the fourth pillar of the State after legislature, executive, and judicial, which shows that the press has a big role in the realization of a democratic state. The press has a role in information of public opinion in this case influencing policies government, controlling, criticizing and correcting government policies, and at the same time becoming a public space for the community to express opinions and views [14]. Mass media is an agent of socialization (spreading values) and play an important role in transmitting behavior, cognition, and relationships [15].

Freedom of the press during the Reformation era does not seem to be an obstacle in conveying data information, but some freedoms can sometimes turn into other issues that are often confusing. Many parties do not seem to agree to take advantage of the importance of freedom itself. The fundamental substance of the press is news, especially the truth that occurs in the eyes of the public that should be spread by the media. If the media contains a lot of information about noise, robbery, or blasphemy, then this is what is happening in society. When the press reveals this terrible reality, it does not mean that the press agrees with what happened. Press reporting does not mean agreeing or disagreeing with its contents, but because the truth exists, the press also reports it so that the public knows what is going on. By reporting transparently about various terrible things that have happened, it is hoped that the public will be aware and reflect, understand what is lacking and what is terrible, and then fix and organize it themselves.

Not when looking at the image in the mirror looks terrible, then this mirror must be split. Regardless of whether it will be done, then, at that time, the terrible reality does exist, and without a mirror, we do not have the haziest idea of what is lacking and bad in us.

Today the press is no longer just a social and political organization. The press has turned into a business field and a place for individuals to continue their work. Many economic actors have begun to infiltrate the press area with different economic and political interests. As Nimmo points out, the most obvious part of the inclusion of economic factors into news-making is through the way the press as a news organization is an economic enterprise that supports itself primarily through the supply of goods and promotions [16].

Freedom of the press also guarantees the fulfillment of individual satisfaction to know (people's right to know) various events that are happening. The public's right to know as a whole is something that must be fulfilled by the mass media. The assumption is that the mass media, or the press, is a social institution that is formed and lived by the community of its users because the media is plural to be oriented to the satisfaction of the freedom of the individuals who live it. Information Data about the truth are needed by the community as a basis for them to determine their political and social attitudes and behavior. In a traditional society, data information about the truth is generally obtained from the symbolic world in interpersonal communication. Meanwhile, in today's modern culture, sources of data information are becoming more complex, not only from direct interaction through interpersonal communication but also through different channels, especially mass media.

In this situation, mass media has become a means for individuals to know the real world. The image of the real world (virtual reality) that comes from this data information will affect their attitudes and behavior. As a result, morally, media data are expected to correspond to objective reality.

4 Conclusion

The presence of technological innovation and data communication then triggers an increase in democratic values. Simple entry into data information and the ability to link distances make thinking such as judgment and support in decision-making easy to implement. Various informative and communicative democratic models that are enforced by virtual or digital means are emerging today, ranging from party websites, and online campaigns, to m-voting ballots. Whatever the structure and form, digital democratic systems plan to provide access to data in different ways, to provide important public spaces that are prerequisites for a democratic order, and to adequate interaction between citizens and public authorities, as well as between citizens.

Although the presence of digital democracy is ready to determine the shortcomings of the manual voice-based system technique, it does not mean that this model is without imperfections. It is worth considering its application in the public eye from now on. Is the data available on the internet really of high quality and can be accessed without any constraints by each individual. Broadly speaking, it can be said that the presence of data and communication innovation is a unique structure that responds to the democratic culture in a country. Therefore, the serious responsibility of each component is expected

to help the presence of this digital-based democratic system to understand the demands of more democratic state life.

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